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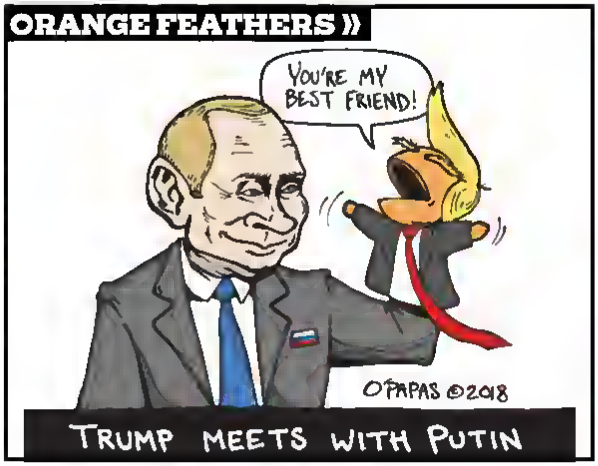

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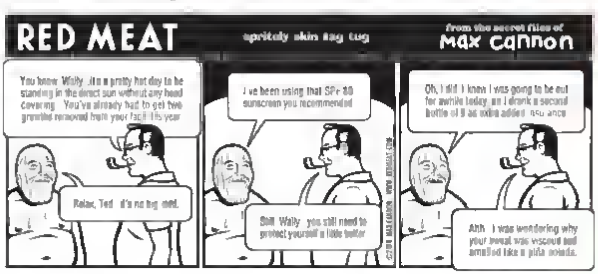
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You know, Wally...it's a pretty hot day to be standing in the direct sun without any head covering. You've already had to get two growths removed from your face this year.
Relax, Ted. It's no big deal.
I've been using that SPF 30 sunscreen you recommended.
Still, Wally, you still need to protect yourself a little better.
Oh, I did! I knew I was going to be out for awhile today, so I drank a second bottle of it as extra added insurance.
Ahh. I was wondering why your sweat was visceral and smelled like a pina colada.

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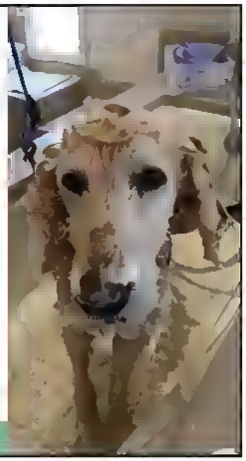

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Fletch Lives

Fletcher Jones, Mercedes-Benz sales king, hopes he's finally escaped a second bad marriage

In late 1997—years before he'd reach superrich status by owning the world's most successful Mercedes-Benz dealership in Newport Beach, Fletcher Jones became enthralled with girlfriend Kimberly, whose $88,000 net worth at the time mostly consisted of jewelry gifts from her paramour, a man who'd by then amassed an $18 million fortune. Jones—well-known in Southern California for his television car commercials—wanted to marry the attractive Wyoming native more than two decades his junior. But the auto dealer felt palpable fear. He didn't want to repeat mistakes made in a prior marriage that ended ugly with $40,000-per-month support payments. Six months before their July 4, 1998, wedding in Dana Point, Jones began suggesting a prenuptial agreement. By June, she'd agreed. He got to protect many of his accumulated assets, and she would win $250,000 paydays on each wedding anniversary.

moxley CONFIDENTIAL

»R. SCOTT MOXLEY

But Jones' aim for a non-acrimonious union eventually failed a second time, costing him millions of dollars, bitter feuds, public humiliation and a protracted eight-year legal nightmare in two states that may have finally ended in mid-July at the California Court of Appeal in Santa Ana. Kimberly, who has had 75 percent custody of their three kids, sought a monthly check for $1.1 million so they could continue to enjoy what Orange County Superior Court Judge James L. Waltz, who presided over the case, called "a lavish marital standard of living." Waltz, a Republican appointee of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, refused the woman's claim and won the backing of a three-justice appellate panel.

"Ted [Jones' actual first name] is a high-income earner," Waltz declared in a November 2015 ruling. "The court observed long ago Ted has the ability to pay any reasonable support the court establishes and has the ability to pay all reasonable and necessary attorney fees and cost for both sides. Ted's ability to pay was never in dispute."

According to court records reviewed by the *Weekly*, Jones' auto-driven wealth topped $600 million three years ago. When they were together, the couple lived in a $30 million waterfront Newport Beach estate stationed on an exclusive island where a neighbor was Donald Bren, the owner of the Irvine Co. and Orange County's richest billionaire. They traveled on their own 2003 Gulfstream GIV jet, for which they had two on-call pilots and a stewardess at the ready 24 hours a day, or on their huge yacht with two on-call captains. They employed multiple nannies, a butler, housekeepers, a personal trainer/security guard, a chauffeur, groundkeepers, a handyman, window washers, an interior painter, a family assistant and an $8,000-per-month live-in chef. For plants and flowers alone, they spent $5,300 each month.

They attended the Kentucky Derby and bought a $100,000 race horse, Classic Legacy. He gifted her cars (including a 2011 Ferrari, a 1957 Thunderbird, a 1956 Corvette and a 1932 Fiat truck) and jewelry worth more than a million dollars, including a $300,000 Cartier necklace. They bought a restaurant, Billy's at the Beach, on Pacific Coast Highway. Her 40th-birthday party cost $468,204. Traveling around the globe, they stayed in the most luxurious suites at the world's most exclusive hotels, including the Peninsula Hotel in Bangkok and the Montage Resort in Laguna Beach. They spent more than $73,000 per month for their kids' karate lessons, gifts, camping trips and chiropractic care. They built a five-bedroom, $7.5 million oceanfront retreat in Mexico staffed with a butler and two maids. They dined at pricy restaurants "at least seven times per week, if not more." Even their animals enjoyed an extravagant $11,500 monthly price tag for pet care.

But living well off the fruits of car companies in California, Hawaii, Nevada and Illinois with more than a billion dollars in annual sales couldn't save Jones' relationship with Kimberly. In court filings, she says she kicked him out of their home in November 2011 because of his alleged chronic alcohol abuse, claiming he became "erratic, unpredictable and abusive" during drinking binges, a point she supplemented with pictures of Jones apparently passed out at bars. To see his kids once they'd separated, she made him agree to take breathalyzer and urine tests. Kimberly insists that mean-looking men wearing earpieces tailed her in public and that there was an attempt to plant a surveillance device in her home-theater equipment. She also reported in court that he once issued a startling declaration to her while they were flying on their jet and the topic of divorce came up. "You just remember one thing, Kimberly," Jones allegedly said. "You are fucking dealing with the devil, and I am the devil."

RICHIE NECKMAN

In Jones' court filings, the auto salesman called the claims "completely false" and has maintained a calm, almost above-the-fray persona, hinting that Kimberly was inclined to paranoia and prone to unnecessary melodrama. He asserted she became especially vengeful once she learned that he'd found a new partner, Asia Fellows. He claims she intentionally let the liquor license expire at Billy's at the Beach, causing him to have to shut down the establishment for several days in hopes of avoiding a fine from state alcohol inspectors.

At least three other incidents frustrated him. Kimberly complained in court that he'd threaten the health of their medically disabled, oldest son by feeding him Goldfish crackers that might have caused a severe allergic reaction. In 2017, as the divorce case lingered, she became incensed that Jones objected to paying for her $153,882 private-charter jet trip to Maui and a demand that her entourage occupy a $7,100-per-night, two-bedroom, oceanfront suite, two club ocean-view rooms, one ocean-view prime room and one partial-ocean-view room at the Four Seasons. He argued three rooms were enough and that she should pay her own airfare. She also abandoned the $30 million Newport Beach mansion in which she was living for free to spend $72,500 per month on a lease for a 4.2-acre, hilltop Montecito estate in a Santa Barbara County gated community.

The battle over spending landed in Waltz's courtroom in 2015. CPA Jason Wegis, Kimberly's expert, testified that Jones' annual, pre-tax income was $53 million, which calculated to a guideline payment of more than $500,000 per month in child support. To duel against Wegis, Jones summoned CPA David Swan as his witness. Swan declared that his client's income was $45.1 million, suggesting a guideline child-custody payment of $395,970 per month. The judge didn't just find Swan "more credible", he tossed out the guidelines altogether, issuing a downward departure of the amount.

"Whatever the debate over Ted's income, this case presents overwhelming evidence that guideline child support, however calculated, would exceed the reasonable needs of the children," Waltz opined. "The excessive funds over needs will only enrich Kimberly and is tantamount to a shifting of wealth." The judge awarded her $120,000 per month for the three kids, stating, "This amount will enable the children to share in their father's lifestyle."

Kimberly, who emerged from the Jones marriage with a net worth topping $49.5 million, didn't win her financial-subsidy claim for purported $452,000 in monthly living expenses. There will have to be a tightening of the proverbial belt buckle. Thanks to Waltz, she must find a way to survive on $245,000 per month—or $2.94 million annually—in permanent support.

RSCOTTMOXLEY@OCWEEKLY.COM

Cracks Are Showing

» MATT COKER

While touring a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention facility in Irvine on July 20, Representative Dana Rohrabacher (R-Putin's Baby Cage) was ready to spout off to a reporter about those dastardly illegals, but the journo had another issue on his mind.

By the time Rohrabacher's badacious beer belly crossed the Irvine city line, it was well-known that he had a Kremlin code name, been warned by the FBI that Russian intelligence was playing him, been suspected of being paid and/or under the influence of Russian President Vladimir Putin's regime, turned up in the U.S. Justice Department's investigation into possible collusion between Russian officials and Donald Trump's 2016 presidential campaign, and, in the latest twist, been linked to suspected covert Russian agent Maria Butina, who is in federal custody.

BOB AUL

Huntington Beach's Surfin' Congressman, who has been outed as much too cozy with the Putin regime by senior politicians within his own party, including Orange County congressional delegation mate Ed Royce (R-Brea), told the reporter at the ICE tour, "There's no conditions, you can ask whatever you want." But when Rohrabacher was asked about his 2015 meeting with Butina, he blew up. "I think you should be ashamed of yourself for trying to divert attention onto another ..." Rohrabacher said before being drowned out by crosstalk. He later pointed at the reporter and barked, "Wait a minute. Don't argue with me. Are you up here doing the press conference?"

He demanded to know where the reporter worked, and after being told, Rohrabacher became the inquisitor. "They teach you ... to not let someone make his case and interrupt him? Is that what they teach you? Is that what they teach you?" As the reporter tried to answer, Rohrabacher shot back with..."Wait a minute! You don't get a chance to argue with me!"

The man-baby then got downright Trumpian, accusing the media of "arrogance," spreading "fake news" and willfully avoiding "the security of our country at our borders" in favor of the "bogus" Russia investigation. He also claimed the public is on his side, that he is not hiding from anyone and that reporters "should be ashamed" of themselves "for trying to divert attention away from an honest issue like this."

That sound you hear from Huntington Beach is the cracking noise from a certain congressshole.

Got Dana Watch fodder? Email mcoker@ocweekly.com.

HeyYou!

» ANONYMOUS

Hyundon't

BOB AUL

On the rear window of your black Hyundai hatchback is a white sticker of Alan and Baby Carlos from *The Hang over*. I've studied this picture religiously because you've just as religiously cut me off every day for the past six months. For months, I seethed with anger, but I wanted vengeance. I began waking up earlier, driving faster and practicing my quick-turn cut-off move on strangers, awaiting the day I'd get you back. It was like an '80s training montage, except I felt like more of a villain than a hero. Earlier this week, I saw you approaching in my rearview mirror as we were off El Toro Road at 7 a.m. I grinned menacingly as you neared, swerved hard and jammed on the brakes. You panicked and skidded across the lane while I laughed victoriously. But a sheriff's deputy who witnessed the incident—and knew nothing of our feud—stopped and ticketed me. *Touché*, Hyundai.

HEY, YOU! Send anonymous thanks, confessions or accusations—changing or deleting the names of the guilty and innocent—to "Hey, You!" c/o *OC Weekly*, 18475 Bandilier Circle, Fountain Valley, CA 92708, or email us at letters@ocweekly.com.

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THE GET DOWN That Won't STAY DOWN

PHOTO OF SANCHEZ WITH DJ OMARGOD BY ROGER SANTANA

GEORGE SANCHEZ BEAT THE ODDS TO MAKE OC FUNK FEST A PHENOMENON

By Jeanette Duran

It's around sunset on a Saturday night in Santa Ana, 1992. Cars slowly cruise through the city's working-class neighborhoods on the way to a house party at the loudest *casa* on Bristol Street. You pull up with friends in a loaded El Camino. After a knock on the door, a 12-year-old Chicano opens up and lets you in for $2. Barely old enough to get how to talk to girls, let alone throw a raging party, young George Sanchez was already known for throwing some of the best backyard boogies in OC.

Walking into the yard, you hear the synthesizer zaps and snare slaps of the Bar-Kays song "Freakshow On the Dance Floor" blaring from the speakers. The place is packed. The ambient body heat rises as homeboys and *chicas* two-step to the retro groove, laughing and cracking jokes while sipping from red Solo cups. Taking in the scene, the young party promoter can't help but bask in the vibe he has created with help from the funk.

Twenty-six years later, the Santa Ana native and creator of Curious Entertainment never imagined that people from throughout SoCal would fill the Honda Center for the biggest party he's ever thrown.

On Saturday, Sanchez will see his dream come true, as the annual Funk Fest takes over Anaheim's largest venue. Featuring legends Morris Day and the Time, the Bar-Kays, the Original Mary Jane Girls, and more, the event is a full-day celebration of lowrider culture and the sounds of Chicano youth.

But Sanchez's mission to become a major voice in OC funk history hasn't been without its ups and downs. A battle with the city of Santa Ana over one of his music events landed him on probation and possibly facing jail time; last March, police shut down one of his lowrider events in Santa Ana for allegedly not having a permit. Sanchez claims the city told him he didn't need one, and on the day of the show, authorities pulled the plug, with the city of Santa Ana slapping Sanchez with a lawsuit for what they described as an unlawful public event.

Even as the price of his success means temporarily losing his freedom, Sanchez vows to not lose a step on the way to realizing his lifelong dream.

Born in 1980 in Santa Ana, Sanchez was one of Juana and Raul's three children. He earned the nickname "Curious," after the cartoon monkey Curious George, at a young age.

When Sanchez was in high school, he threw parties in his family's back yard and at local warehouses, charging a $2 entrance fee and $2 for cups to cover the cost of kegs—usually while his parents were out of town. "Umm, my parents didn't really know," he admits. Soon after he threw his first party, friends and strangers were asking him about the next one and pestering him for details. "I never doubted myself," Sanchez says inside his company's Santa Ana office space. "I knew I could make my dreams a reality, but even now as I live them out, it's still surreal."

Juana has been unwittingly investing in her son's business since day one. "He would ask me for money—a lot of money for a kid at the time—but he would ask me to trust him, and every time, he'd pay me back," she says. "Once I found out what he was doing, I supported him. He's always been *buen trabajador* [a hard worker]. Whatever he put his mind to, he would accomplish it. But I had to take a lot of heat from his father about his parties—his father was not happy."

» CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

PHOTO BY ROGER SANTANA

THE CURIOUS CREW

THE GET DOWN THAT WON'T STAY DOWN

» FROM PAGE 9

As he grew into adulthood, Sanchez had to find ways to make consistent money; he even worked for the city of Santa Ana as a street sweeper. But in 2010, he quit his job to pursue his lifelong passion of coordinating events. "It was the best decision that I've made, I had nothing holding me back and I also had no income so I had to step up to the plate," Sanchez says. "Everyone knows I'm crazy so I don't think anyone was shocked, but I don't necessarily think anyone expected this kind of success."

With his love of the music he grew up with, he wanted to celebrate the things that are often discriminated against by local authorities in Mexican communities: funk and oldies, lowriders, bomber cars, and the style embraced by Mexican immigrants who did not assimilate into Anglo culture. *Santaneros* have long taken pride in their heritage, celebrating their wins and losses on their bodies with tattoos, creating an art form through cars tricked out with hydraulics, custom exhaust pipes and bass-humping music.

His sister Nelly co-founded Curious Entertainment with George in 2012; they wanted to not only entertain, but also inspire nostalgia. "I want people to pass by one of our events and hear the same songs they once heard floating from a window of a '64 Impala cruising down Bristol," he says.

Today, the business employs many of his friends and family. Even though they are 13 years apart, Nelly has always supported him. "He's my brother, and I love him, so I'm going to be there for him without hesitation and without doubt," she says. "We butt heads sometimes, but at the end of the day, we see the vision."

Nelly manages the company's social media, scouts up-and-coming talent and hooks artists, while Sanchez's childhood friend David Hernandez is instrumental in planning and coordinating the events, some of which bring in funk legends who have never heard of OC. On average, an event such as Funk Fest draws as many as 20,000 people.

Finding local venues to host his events has always been a challenge. For the inaugural Funk Fest in 2012, the company booked the Bar-Kays. Not only was it their first time performing in Santa Ana, but it was also their first time playing on the West Coast since the '80s. "I remember being so nervous on the phone as it was ringing," Nelly says. "I don't even remember how I got their contact [info], but I told George I would, so I had to."

The first Funk Fest included other legends such as Slave, Lakeside and Circle City Band.

For a band such as the Bar-Kays, who've been grooving since 1966, the opportunity to draw new and old fans of the funk gives them the fire to perform. "Working with 'Curious George' has been great," says bassist/bandleader James Alexander. "We've always known we have a big Latino following, so it's great to come out to the West Coast and perform for our fans. Funk is universal, and we are appreciative of people like George who give us a stage to put on a good show."

Clearly there's a huge market for the funk in OC. The first fest, held at Original Mike's, sold out within three days. The demand forced them to move to the Yost Theater in the heart of Downtown Santa Ana.

Sanchez knew he had to build on the momentum of Funk Fest, but he didn't know how.

On Oct. 24, 2015, Sanchez's father, Raul, passed away. He had only gotten to experience one or two Curious shows at Original Mike's.

"Any time I'm in the middle of an event, I always think of when I was 12, and I asked my dad for $500," Sanchez says. "I was going to work with some promoters to do an event in the Angels parking lot. It would have been my biggest event [at the time], but he said no and called me crazy. That's the memory I always think of, and it makes me feel waves of emotions to look out and see that I'm making my dreams come true but my dad isn't here to see it."

After Raul, a tailor, died, his family went to pick up his sewing machine and found it was covered with Curious Entertainment stickers. On his phone, he had saved screenshots of each of the company's event fliers. "I know it hurts my son that his father left without telling him he was proud," Juana says, "but he was proud."

Having worked tirelessly until his final day, Raul left each of his children $100,000. Sanchez decided to use his inheritance to plan his next big event, Funk Fest 2016.

When hearing what he was putting his money toward, Nelly decided she wanted to use her share to help her brother. "I believed in him as much as he believed in himself," she says. "I told him, 'Let's pull the trigger, what do we have to lose? It's either we take this leap of faith or wonder *What if* for the rest of our lives.'"

Curious Entertainment booked the Anaheim Convention Center Arena for the third Funk Fest, which featured Cameo, the Bar-Kays, Midnight Star, Stone City Band and One Way. The sold-out event put the company on the map. The siblings had risked it all and took home more than they expected.

In addition to its success with Funk Fest, Curious Entertainment's Firme Sunday turned one of the least-popular days for bars and clubs into a money maker. Sanchez was inspired to create the monthly event after attending a Day of the Dead Car Show in downtown Santa Ana. "The sun was setting, and I walked into the middle of the street," he remembers. "Grown-ups were laughing and drinking, children were playing around, oldies were playing in the background, and everything just felt right." His wanted to come up with something

» CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

PHOTOS BY SANTIAGO "SANTI" ZEPEDA

FUNK FEST

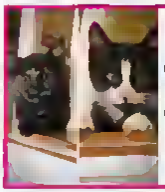
FUNKIN' AROUND WITH STONE CITY BAND

Upcoming Events

Music Tastes Good 2018
Our mammoth two-day music, food, and arts festival returns to Marina Green Park, along the picturesque Downtown Long Beach shoreline, on September 29 and 30th and will be headlined by none other than iconic British New Wave legends New Order (Saturday) making their only west coast appearance this year, and Grammy-nominated and Mercury Prize-winning English singer-songwriter James Blake (Sunday). Tickets at Eventbite

2018 CHOC Walk in the Park at Disneyland Sunday, August 26th
The CHOC Walk is a time when families express their thanks to the doctors and nurses that cared for their children, and share their memories with other families. It is a fundraiser that provides for the care, services, education and research at CHOC Children's Hospital. Visit CHOCWalk.org for more info.

Messages



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Featured This Week

chef_brady FOIE GRAS Peanut Butter Mousse & Strawberry Jam & BACON Sandwich. Here. Now. Do it. Haven Gastropub

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THE RESULT
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THE GET DOWN THAT WON'T STAY DOWN

» FROM PAGE 10

that would resemble that feeling of togetherness on a day like Sunday, when many families come together for a barbecue and to relax before the week begins.

Sanchez has even brought in old-school actors from Chicano cult films to make appearances. Mousie (Seidy Lopez) and Sad Girl (Angel Aviles) from the 1993 movie *Mi Vida Loca*, plus famous characters Cruzito, Popeye and Spider from the 1993 movie *Blood In Blood Out*. All of the Firme Sunday events have charged less than $10, if anything at all, while bouncing between venues including the Yost Theater, the Underground (now known as Bar Ellipsis), the Mission Control, the Copper Door and, most recently, the House of Blues at Anaheim GardenWalk.

Last year, Curious Entertainment held its first Orange County Block Party, hosted by Big Boy, with Vaughan Mason, O'Bryan, One Way, Tuxedo, Too $hort, Tha Dogg Pound, Sonors Dinamita, Ramon Ayala and Elvis Crespo. Despite having a lineup that could be described as all headliners, the Sanchezes were fearful not many people would attend. "We sold out tickets, so we weren't worried about sales," Nelly explains. "But we were worried about how many people would actually show up the day of."

The Orange County Block Party was just one month after the devastating Route 91 Harvest Festival shooting in Las Vegas. "We hired two separate security firms, and we had the Santa Ana Police Department on scene so that our attendees could feel safe," Nelly says.

Despite their worries, thousands of people showed up, making it another successful event.

Though its events were successful, Curious Entertainment faced backlash from community members upset by the growing gentrification in Santa Ana. Some people say Sanchez is contributing to the displacement of Mexican culture and small businesses by working with Downtown INC, led by Ryan Chase.

"We just want to unite the community by providing good music and a safe environment," Nelly says. Because of the backlash, the company has decided to move this year's Orange County Block Party. "I'm trying to cater to my people, but it's so difficult finding a local venue that accommodates all of our attendees."

But that is not the only obstacle Curious Entertainment has had to face this year. On March 25, the company promoted a free event at Mission Control, a bar/arcade inside the McFadden Marketplace, with a live performance by Joe Bataan, who's best known for the hit songs "Ordinary Guy" and "My Cloud." Sanchez claims he had inquired with the city about a permit but was told he did not need one.

The event was kid-friendly, with a bounce house outside. *Chicanos* brought their lowriders for attendees to admire in the small parking lot alongside Bush Street. A crowd waited for Bataan's performance while sipping drinks and boogeying to funk mixed by local DJs. But the good times were cut short when the Santa Ana Police Department (SAPD) stopped by; they explained to Sanchez that he had to shut down his event because he lacked a permit.

For Sanchez, it's not surprising that *Chicano* events are facing retaliation from city authorities. Sanchez wants society to stop the criminalization of Latino barrios and the profiling of brown people, he hopes to unite races and generations through the art of oldies and funk. "I hope that my hometown remembers that SanTana is a home to Latinos and we can all come together as a community to appreciate great music and share good times," he says.

However, the city filed a lawsuit against Sanchez himself in March 2018. Charges included holding an event without a permit, even though the event was held inside a business, and selling alcohol outdoors, even though the business itself has the required license to do so. Recently, the city put Sanchez on a six-month probation, if broken under any circumstances, he faces six months in jail and a $1,000 fine.

Sanchez played it careful on July 1, when Curious Entertainment hosted the previously booked Firme Sunday inside the Copper Door with '80s Motown R&B group OZONE ("Strut my Thang"). Downstairs, the vibe was nothing but fun, the small stage on which the band performed was surrounded by people getting down on the dance floor. The bar was busy all night, even after all the beer was sold out. But upstairs, the Curious team was once again faced with what it alleges is harassment from the SAPD.

A sergeant asked security outside to let him into the Copper Door, but event security denied his request, as he was not in uniform, which suggested he was not on duty. The officer, who did have his gun on him, called for backup units to address the issue, which apparently had to do with Sanchez's truck being parked outside the bar on Broadway.

The truck, a Ford F-150 wrapped in Curious Entertainment's logo, was parked beside one of the street meters on a Sunday, during a time when parking is free in downtown Santa Ana. SAPD verbally warned Sanchez about his vehicle being there, but the officers left without giving him a citation. Sanchez fears even a small altercation such as this could affect his probation. "I just hope they don't serve me like last time, and I'm forced to do time over this," Sanchez says angrily. "It's stupid and unreasonable."

Despite such obstacles, Curious Entertainment continues to forge ahead. Ear-

lier this year, it launched Curious Radio, an app available on iTunes and Google Play worldwide. "None of us knows anything about radio," Sanchez says while sitting in the company's newly set up recording room. "I had to invest so much money into something I knew nothing about."

Since its launch, the fledgling station has already racked up a steady 60 downloads per day. Every Friday at 5 p.m., DJ OmarGod plays what he calls a traffic-jam mix. All day on Sundays, you can hear a prerecorded selection of oldies. And on Mondays, there's the show *Ghetto Mondaze*, which usually features a special guest. At any time of any day, you can purchase tickets and merchandise or get news about Curious Entertainment events.

Among the new ventures is an event Sanchez refers to as FunkCbella, think the Orange County Block Party, but on a massive scale.

"I'm pretty sure if I had the finances and resources, I could fill up Angel Stadium like the Observatory did for Day and Night, but I'd love to do an open place where people can camp out and barbecue with their friends and family while funk and oldies artists perform," says Sanchez.

This year's Funk Fest and the promise of even bigger things to come gives Sanchez hope for the future.

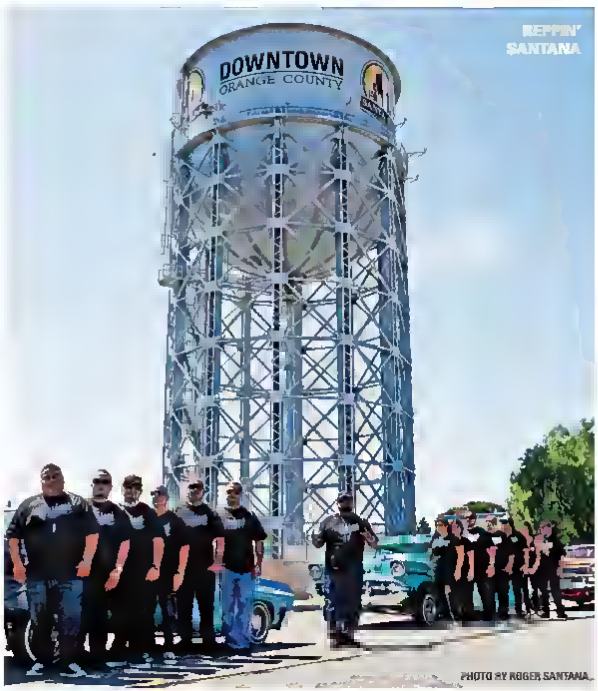
"I don't even know how to describe the feelings I have for Funk Fest at the Honda Center," he says. "I'm nervous and excited and sad and happy, and I know [the event is] coming, but I just can't believe it. I know I'm going to be super-emotional at the event, but I'm going to try to get up onstage and thank the fans and the artists and my staff and my family and my dad."

As big as this moment seems for Sanchez, after Funk Fest is over, Curious Entertainment will travel to Phoenix for a collaboration with All-Star Concerts' Forever Oldies Tour. After *that*, it's taking Firme Sundays to Las Vegas, where a local club plans to regularly host the event. Other states such as Texas, Georgia and Arizona have all reached out to Sanchez to hold any or all of his events, he's even been asked to do international tours.

"It's not just my back yard anymore, not even just Orange County," Sanchez says. "But the principle for Curious Entertainment events will always be the same as when it was in my back yard in Santa Ana. unity through music, some *firme rolas*, well-dressed people with their elbows high and their drinks held higher, having a funk-tastic time. That's the way it's going to be—at the Honda Center, at a local club or in my back yard. It's going to be a good time *para mi gente*."

FUNK FEST

featurng Morris Day & the Time, tha Bar-Kays, Cluh Nouveau, Dazz Band, Con Funk Shun, Klymaxx, Onginal Mary Jane Girls, Tawatha of Mtume, O'Bryan, Howard Johnson, SKYY, and Evelyn "Champagne" King, at tha Honda Center, 2695 E. Katella Ave., Anaheim, (714) 704-2500, www hondacenter.com Sat., 7 p.m. $35-$200 All ages



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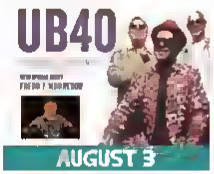
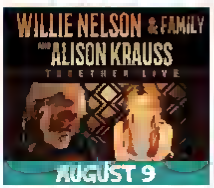


AUGUST 3

AUGUST 4

AUGUST 5

AUGUST 8



AUGUST 9

AUGUST 10 & 11

AUGUST 12

AUGUST 16 & 17*

AUGUST 19*

AUGUST 24*

AUGUST 25*

Pacific Amphitheatre Fair time concert tickets include FREE admission to the 2018 OC Fair and one free ride on La Grande Wheel XL. Admission tickets must be surrendered at La Grande Wheel XL.
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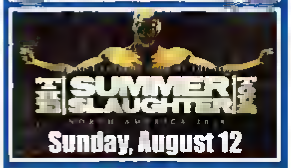
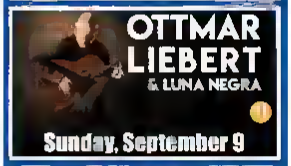


Sunday, August 12

Saturday, August 18

Friday, August 24



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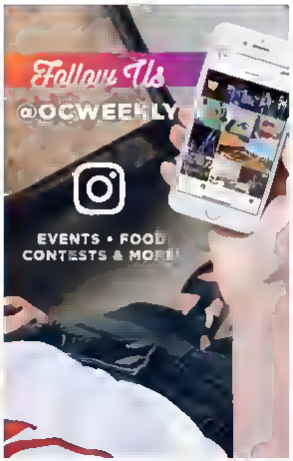

*calendar

friday›
NO MORE PARTIES IN THE USA

DNIELY S

fri/08/03

[CONCERT]

Modern Lover
Jonathan Richman

It's helpful to be able to rely on Jonathan Richman in these troubled times, as the legendary faux-naif punk rock troubadour keeps singing, writing and road running through an eclectic, 50-year catalog of ballads about love, trouble and affirmation. His "Roadrunner" is a rock & roll anthem of joy and freedom, but his love songs—offered as a chanteur, country-and-western honky tonk singer, bar band front man or solo romantic artist in Spanish or French—all attest to the beautiful, hopeful, genuine sing-along correctness of his vision of generous youthful energy and unapologetic passion. An amazing live performer steeped in humor, warmth and wit, you'll be charmed, seduced and encouraged by the voice of this singular ambassador of romantic resistance to cruelty and stupidity.

Jonathan Richman at Marty's On Newport, 14401 Newport Ave., Tustin, (714) 544-1995, www.martysonnewport.com. 9 p.m., also Sat. $15. —ANDREW TONKOVICH

[THEATER]

BEE SHARP
Ya Like Jazz?

A Bee Musical

The 2007 animated, Jerry Seinfeld-starring *Bee Movie* is nothing to write home about, sadly, but something we can take pleasure in from its existence is this parody musical. The story of Barry B. Benson's falling in love with a human and the court case against the human race for bee oppression is retold here with some comedic musical tweaking, featuring songs such as "Screw the Laws of Avabon!" and "My Girlfriend Left Me for a Bee." Brought to you by the folks who developed the *Shrek*-inspired *It's Not Ogre Yet: A Musical Parody*, this production has jokes, jazz, hive hijinks and all sorts of bizarre, bee-centric hilarity that will hopefully serve as a palate cleanser for the film version. Playing one weekend only!

Ya Like Jazz? A Bee Musical at Stage Door Repertory Theatre, 1045 N. Armando St., Anaheim, (714) 630-7378, www.klubhousearts.com. 8 p.m., also Sat.-Sun. $25-$30. —AIMEE MURILLO

sat/08/04

[FOOD & DRINK]

FOODIE FEAST
Brunch Life Fest

Don't call it a fad. That mimosa-centric meal between breakfast and lunch is a lifestyle. It's all over your Instagram in beautifully styled overhead shots and scrawled across pastel-colored tote bags and T-shirts. Brunch *is* life. And now we've got an entire event dedicated to eggs and waffles and selfies. Admission to the inaugural Brunch Life Fest at Long Beach's Rainbow Lagoon Park gets you cocktails and tastings from spots including Alegria Cocina Latina, La Traviata, Mess Hall Canteen, Liberation Brewing, Restauration, Veggie Fam, and a brunch, ar, *bunch* more. Take note: This event is strictly for those 21 and older, so baby influencers have to watch from the sidelines (a k.a. newsfeeds).

Brunch Life Fest at Rainbow Lagoon Park, 400 E. Shoreline Dr., Long Beach, (562) 570-3100, www.brunchlifefest.com. VIP, 10 a.m., general admission, 11 a.m. $20-$65. 21+. —ERIN DEWITT

[FILM]

Time to Ride!
Bicycle Drive-In

Pedal your hearts out, kids· It's time for Bicycle Drive-In 2018! Downtown Long Beach Alliance's Summer and Music (SAM) series, which has been presenting free music events for 10 years, is wheeling out its latest edition of the pedal-in festival. Bicyclists of all ages are welcome to come down to Historic Old Pine Avenue, between Fourth and Fifth streets, to get their fill of live music, contests with prizes, and a screening of the cult classic *Harold and Maude*. This special hybrid of exercise, alternative transportation and free entertainment has been a staple of SAM for six years. Isn't it about time you joined this biker gang?

MORE ONLINE »
OCWEEKLY.COM

Bicycle Drive-In at downtown Long Beach on Fourth Street and Pine Avenue, Long Beach, www.summerandmusic.com. 6 p.m. Free. —SCOTT FEINBLATT

sun/08/05

[CONCERT]

Always Our Baby

Ronnie Spector and the Ronettes

In 2007, lead singer Ronnie Spector and her namesake group, the Ronettes, were inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame as one of the most significant pop groups of the 1960s. Of their five Top 40 hits, 1963's "Be My Baby" was the most successful, peaking at No. 2 and inspiring Brian Wilson of the Beach Boys to pen a response, "Don't Worry, Baby." Spector's "Baby" joins such other chart-topping songs as "Baby, I Love You" and the Grammy-winning "Walking In the Rain" on the playlist tonight, as well as some of Spector's later hits. Spector is a music legend and a lady badass, and here's your chance to show her the love she so richly deserves.

Ronnie Spector and the Ronettes at the Coach House, 33157 Camino Capistrano, San Juan Capistrano, (949) 496-8930, thecoachhouse.com. 7 p.m. $35. —SR DAVE S

[FASHION & STYLE]

Get Your Kicks

Sneaker Con

If you're the type who cleans every tiny scuff that blanches the skin of your precious pair of limited-edition high tops that cost you almost the amount of your monthly rent, then Sneaker Con is for you. Ditto that for sneaker-heads who tirelessly comb *Four Pins* and *Complex* magazine for up-to-date news on which rapper wore what kicks, as well as for when the latest release of Adidas or Nikes will be hitting your nearest trendy shoe store. This traveling convention will bring hundreds of vendors and brands in one place to sate every shoe obsessive's passion for footwear. For the only Southern California stop on Sneaker Con's tour, you'll want to bring a packed lunch for those long wait times for your next pair of dream shoes.

Sneaker Con at Anaheim Convention Center, 800 W Katella Ave., Anaheim, (714) 765-8950, sneakercon.com. Noon. $25-$40. —AIMEE MURILLO

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mon/08/06

[ART]

Looking Back

'Art Colony: The Laguna Beach Art Association, 1918-1935'

It's hard to know what Southern California's art scene would be like if the Laguna Beach Art Association hadn't been established in the early 20th century, for it served as a launching pad for many Laguna Beach-based artists to extend their artistic reach to other parts of the country. Laguna Art Museum's current exhibition (which is the first of its kind) tracks the evolution of the pioneering institution and includes more than 100 works created by more than 60 artists, many of whom were among the first wave of exhibitors in the association.

"Art Colony: The Laguna Beach Art Association, 1918-1935" at Laguna Art Museum, 307 Cliff Dr., Laguna Beach, (949) 494-8971, www.lagunaartmuseum.org. 11 a.m. Through Jan. 13, 2019. $5-$7. —AIMEE MURILLO

tue/08/07

[CONCERT]

Still No. 1

KRS-One

You can't write the history of hip-hop without including KRS-One. The legendary Bronx-born rapper and producer is not only one of the key voices that inspired many other generations of rappers to follow, but he is also a seminal member of Boogie Down Productions and a solo artist. These days, the rapper born Lawrence "Kris" Parker divides his time between releasing more music and working with activist causes. If you want to see a pillar of hip-hop history perform live and in the flesh, take your chance tonight.

KRS-One at Marty's On Newport, 14401 Newport Ave., Tustin, (714) 544-1995, www.martysonnewport.com. 8 p.m. $20. 21+. —AIMEE MURILLO

wed/08/08

[EVENT]

IT'S A SMASH! Motorhome Madness

Demolition Derby

Motorhome Madness is an OC Fair tradition—*Mad Max* for the Leisure World set—in which the former symbols of a rewarding retirement spin around in the sucking mud as they fight desperately for the right to exist for just a few more minutes. (This may also be your own personal retirement plan, especially if you've never thought much about your own personal retirement plan.) As seasoned demolition derby spectators know, RVs and campers make for an especially satisfying show because they're especially destructible—built for comfort, not for combat—and they really splinter if they take a hit just right — or wrong. Also: Please be advised that on Aug. 11, there will be a special, extra-heroic Motorhome Madness Demolition Derby in which police-chief-themed motor homes smash into fire-chief-themed motor homes in an epic battle of the first responders—or first-responder administrators? No matter who wins, you can't lose.

Motorhome Madness Demolition Derby at the OC Fair's Action Sports Arena, 88 Fair Dr., Costa Mesa, (714) 708-1500; ocfair.com. 8 p.m., also Aug. 11. $17.50. —CHRIS ZIEGLER

[THEATER]

Merry, But Fierce!

The Merry Wives of Windsor

Yes, it truly is Shakespeare season, and now Soka University is getting into it with its Shakespeare By the Sea production of *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Bring some portable outdoor seating or beach blankets to rest your tired, weary limbs on the Campus Green (next to the Soka Bistro) to watch this free production, which is set in 15th century England. This comedy follows the events that transpire after the titular wives receive identical letters of courtship from a suitor only interested in them for their money, then decide to get revenge on him for fun. Picnics are encouraged (except for glass receptacles!), as well as arriving early because "better three hours too soon than a minute too late!"

The Merry Wives of Windsor at Soka University Campus Green, 1 University Dr., Aliso Viejo; www.soka.edu. 7 p.m. Free. —AIMEE MURILLO

thu/08/09

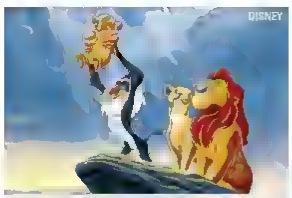
[CONCERT]

Shotgun Willie

Willie Nelson and Family, plus Alison Krauss

Somehow, some way, Willie Nelson has mustered the strength to head out on the road again. Having just turned 85 (!!!), country music's rambling troubadour is once again spending his summer away from his Austin-area farm to bring music to his legions of fans across the country. Maybe it's the strength of his marijuana, but the man's dedication to his craft is one of the most impressive feats in all of music. Many of his contemporaries are retired or long gone, yet Nelson continues to release music, with his latest effort, 2017's *God's Problem Child*, still topping the charts. As he tours with his family and Grammy Award winner Alison Krauss, you should expect to see the singer defy what people his age should be doing.

Willie Nelson and Family, plus Alison Krauss at Pacific Amphitheatre, 88 Fair Dr., Costa Mesa, (714) 708-1500; pacamp.com. 7:30 p.m. $70-$489. —WYOMING REYNOLDS



[FILM]

CIRCLE OF LIFE *The Lion King*

Many of the young fans who adored Disney's *The Lion King* have, by now, brought their own brood into the world, and what better parent-child bonding opportunity than catching the beloved children's classic on the beach as it screens at tonight's Moonlight Movies. Loosely spinning William Shakespeare's *Hamlet* into an animated musical with singing wildlife animals, this movie left its cultural mark with an Elton John-composed soundtrack and memorable platitude of "hakuna matata" while also inspiring an award-winning Broadway musical. Whether you're introducing this film to your kids or enjoying it again, relish seeing this longtime favorite at a relaxed sunset screening.

The Lion King at Alfredo's Beach Club, 5411 Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, (562) 314-8778; alfredosbeachclub.com. Doors open, 6 p.m., screening, dusk. Free. —AIMEE MURILLO

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Poultry for the Proletariat

370 Common chef's 'Fried Chicken Sundays' is spun off as Buttermilk Fried Chicken in Orange

BY EDWIN GOEI

It's been around seven years since chef Ryan Adams shook up the Laguna Beach dining scene with family-style suppers at 370 Common. Called "Sunday Socials," they were supposed to be evocative of meals at home, with everyone at the table and the TV off. On those nights, Adams and crew cooked only one main dish and served it with all the fixin's. The concept quickly became a hit. Reservations regularly sold out, especially when fried chicken was the main course. In fact, Adams' fried chicken dinners became so popular they were renamed "Fried Chicken Sundays," which still happens at 370 Common like clockwork the last weekend of every month.

I never got around to going, but now I don't have to. Adams has spun off his "Fried Chicken Sundays" into its own concept in Orange, taking over the space that used to be LinX. He calls the new place Buttermilk Fried Chicken, and it, too, has struck a nerve. There are reports of the kitchen running out of food by 7:45 p.m., which is pretty early when you consider it opens at 5 p.m.

Foodies who knew it was Adams' first foray into KFC's airspace obviously spurred the popularity. People are always intrigued when a fine-dining chef starts catering to the proletariat. A few years ago, the same thing happened when Ludo Lefebvre decided he wanted to do fried chicken out of a truck.

For me, the appeal was more economic. Through the years, I had seen the going rate for 370 Common's three-course fried chicken meal ticking up to its current price of $42 per person, which is nearly a threefold increase from 2011, when it was $16. By comparison, the prices at Buttermilk Fried Chicken are bargain basement. As of this writing, a three-piece meal with two sides and cornbread costs $9.95, which is a very reasonable rate considering you actually get four pieces if you count the wing. Moreover, the three-piece is more than enough food for two people.

There will be plenty of mashed potatoes, their velvety smoothness possessing a rustic texture that suggests the addition of potato skins or possibly a varietal that's something other than just plain old Russet. And you can tell immediately that the gravy ladled on top is properly made-from-scratch since it develops a telltale skin as it cools.

Though Buttermilk Fried Chicken is as stripped-down as a fast-casual could be—with communal tables, sweet tea in self-serve jugs and its entire menu on a cardboard sign—I noticed meticulous care and quality ingredients at play. One crew member's job is solely to check the temperature of the just-fried chicken.

@OCWMKTGDIRECTOR

So far, Buttermilk produces the best creamed corn I've ever tasted. It swims in a thick, milky sauce that looks overly rich, but isn't. The sauce actually amplifies the corn's sweetness. As the kernels burst with juicy nectar in your mouth, all you taste is summer.

The green-chile-and-Cheddar cornbread is wonderful, too. Flaky, crumbly and tender, this is a next-level gourmet biscuit the likes of which you'd never find at a fast-food joint or perhaps in the actual South. You need not drench it with the spicy honey that comes on the side, but if you do, you'll reap the rewards.

I should also note that the smoky bacon-braised greens here are more Wolfgang Puck than Paula Deen. The kitchen eschews traditional collards for kale, but the dish's effect as the meal's palate cleanser is the same, if not better.

This brings me to the fried chicken itself, which isn't greasy, loaded with salt nor overly caked with breading. This is what a grandmother in a housedress would make if you asked her to replicate the Popeye's recipe. However, my impression of the chicken on this visit coincided with the temperature at which it was served: lukewarm. And it was because of its tepidness that I started to question whether I'd been preprogrammed by Popeye's to prefer greasier, saltier, crispier chicken more than these home-style birds. I haven't decided one way or the other yet, but I am happily willing to go back to Buttermilk until I do, especially before Adams decides he's priced his chicken meals too low.

Plus, the sides are still gems, and the coconut cake for dessert is as fluffy as cotton. Also, the deviled eggs here, crowned with house-pickled jalapeño, are unbelievably great—reason enough for a visit to finally address that chicken and egg question once and for all. The answer? Who cares?! Have both!

BUTTERMILK FRIED CHICKEN
238 W. Chapman Ave., Ste. 100, Orange, (714) 941-8124, buttermilkfc.com. Open Tues.-Sun., 5-9:30 p.m. Meals start at $9.95. No alcohol.

WHAT THE ALE
» GREG NAGEL

Let the Taps Flow

TAPS BREWERY & BARREL ROOM
15501 Red Hill Ave., Tustin, tapsfishhouse.com

Brewpubs of the '90s are an endangered species. The only survivors have had to adapt, innovate or kill it with hospitality. But if you're TAPS Fish House & Brewery, you go a step further than what the other production breweries in America have done: You add a food truck that is a destination of its own, then let the proverbial taps flow.

"With our legacy of medal-winning beers, we saw this opportunity to come into wider distribution," says TAPS owner Joe Manzella. "After a long search for a location, Kyle Manns, our director of brewing at TAPS, actually found this space. So much for real-estate brokers!"

Located on Red Hill and Valencia in Tustin, it's central to the 55, 5 and 405 freeways. There's ample parking, plus comfy spaces indoor and out to geek out on beer, as well as plny games such as pinball, billiards and cornhole.

The TAPS food truck, which is anchored at the location, has a state-of-the-art touchscreen ordering system both inside and outside of the tasting room. On offer from chef de cuisine Roman Jimenez—who has history with the Manzella Restaurant Group at Macallans in Brea—are international food-truck fusion bites ranging from a bánh mì hot dog to my favorite, Colonel Roman's Fried Chicken Sandwich.

The new 19,000-square-foot brewery (which features centrifuge technology to further clarify the many lagers TAPS is famous for) and tasting room will produce approximately 5,000 barrels the first year (with an overall capacity of 25,000 barrels) that will feed into TAPS locations in Irvine, Brea and Corona, as well as the Catch in Anaheim and other Manzella Restaurant properties. Mass distribution into big-box grocery stores and bottle shops throughout the region is next.

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COURTESY OF BRUNCH LIFE FEST

Peace, Love and Mimosas

Brunch Life Fest celebrates the in-between meal

LONG BEACH LUNCH
» SARAH BENNETT

Anne Chua used to have a traditional view of breakfast: pancakes, waffles, a plate of bacon and eggs. But not long after turning 21, she was taken to brunch and discovered the popular Mexican dish chilaquiles. "It's like breakfast, but also like nachos," the now-26-year-old Long Beach native says. "Brunch is my favorite because there's such a wide variety of food. I don't necessarily order what I thought breakfast was. It's the best of both meals."

For the past five years, Chua and three of her best friends (all of whom have known one another since elementary school) have spent their weekends exploring the growing number of restaurants in the city that now offer the boozy, in-between meal. They discovered the morning burrito at Padre, mascarpone French toast at Starling Diner, whatever veggie-filled hash was in season at Restauration and, of course, the bottomless mimosas at Riley's in Belmont Shore (their definitive go-to)

On Saturday, the group share their love of brunch with the rest of their hometown at Brunch Life Fest. The inaugural event, held at Rainbow Lagoon Park, features at least 15 restaurants and food trucks—from Babe's Kitchen to GD Bro Burger—plus nine beverage vendors, including Steelhead Coffee, Salud Juice, and local michelada-mix maker Micho & Mary. "A lot of people think brunch is only an LA thing and don't know that Long Beach has all these great brunch spots, too," Chua says. "We wanted people to know that Long Beach has that vibe."

For Chua and her squad, brunch is a lifestyle. After spending all week being disciplined at a day job, going somewhere to eat and day drink with friends is a low-effort way to decompress. When you factor in the inevitable post-brunch walks, bike rides and beach trips, it's a commitment that can easily take you into dinnertime. "I think brunch is about being with your friends, celebrating a day out close to the beach and feeling carefree energy," Chua says. "My friends and I eat family-style; we order a bunch of things and enjoy food and one another's company."

Brunch Life Fest hopes to re-create those carefree outdoor days in one location. Admission gets you access to food samples, an open mimosa bar, bloody Marys and beer tastings, all with a view of the harbor. Organizers liken the event to a "big picnic in the park with your friends."

Long Beach has always been a solid breakfast town, and from Egg Heaven to Blackbird Cafe, we still treat pancakes and omelets as a religion (have you seen the line outside Potholder on Sunday mornings?!) But now, places that historically only served dinner are opening early and curating a special food-and-drink menu that's served, at most, only two days a week. The newly renovated La Traviata, for example, will debut its first brunch menu at Brunch Life Fest.

Why does Chua think more restaurants are serving up brunch vibes in Long Beach?

"My friends and I love eating out and trying new places … and I'd totally rather go to brunch than dinner," she says. "Maybe it's a millennial thing."

BRUNCH LIFE FEST
at Rainbow Lagoon Park, 400 E. Shoreline Dr., Long Beach, brunchlifefest.com. Sat., VIP admission, 10 a.m., general admission, 11 a.m. $49, VIP, $65. 21+

GREG NAGEL

In the Know

Cocktails and beef at Juliette Kitchen + Bar

I have a theory: If a restaurant serves a quality steak tartare, odds are its burger will be life-changing in some way. To test this theory, I'm at one of Newport Beach's hidden gems, Juliette Kitchen + Bar, admiring the cozy wine-barrel-staved bar with my angsty 11-year-old daughter, hoping there is something that catches her eye.

"I'll have the steak tar-*tear*," she says, her eyes rolling so hard I'm pretty sure the Earth was knocked off its axis by a few degrees. After a brief explanation of what tartare is, she rolled them back in the other direction, thankfully correcting our planet's trajectory around the sun.

In a county where every restaurant is littered with buzzwords such as *grass-fed*, *organic*, *free-range*, *handcrafted* and *craft*, Juliette Kitchen + Bar lets the dishes speak for themselves. The cocktails are still crafted with care, the wines hand-selected during personal journeys through boutique vineyards, and quality food put on a pedestal.

"I heard there's a secret menu cocktail," I whisper to longtime bartender Jon McConnell.

"We have a vanilla maple old fashioned for our regulars and guests in the know," he whispers back, in an effort to not entice interest from surrounding tables.

The drink is prepped and delivered like your typical old fashioned with a chunky square cube and a lemon peel whose essential oils have been tweaked and smeared around the rim before dramatically resting on ice. On the nose, notes of vanilla and Luxardo cherry pop out, despite there not being cherry in the glass. Sipping the drink, there's a soothing, clove-like numbing of the senses. I couldn't quite place the booze, so I asked.

"The spirits in the old fashioned are unique to the process; we've been doing an infinity-bottle method for around 18 months in which we keep five bottles of brown liquor on rotation," notes McConnell. "Once it gets down to two bottles remaining, we top it up with bourbon, rye, cognac, etc., so it's always evolving."

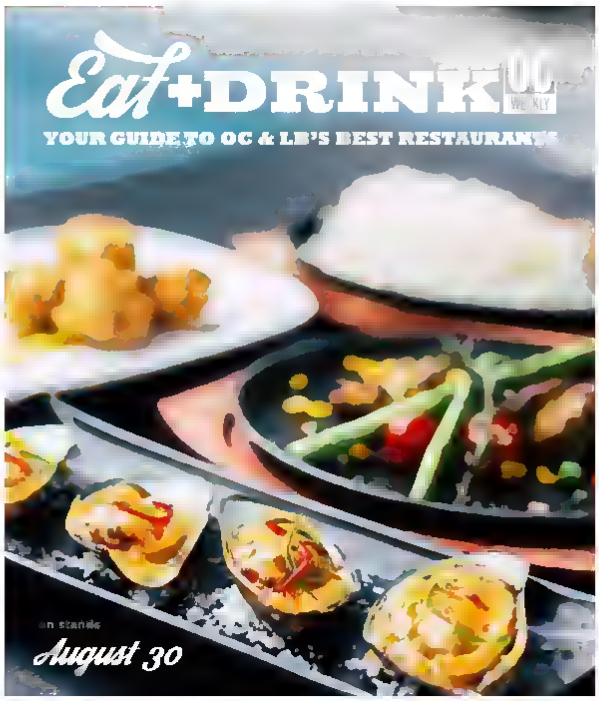
Meanwhile, my kid is devouring the $20 steak tartare as though it's free chips and salsa at a Mexican restaurant. I follow suit, taking a barbecue-flavored potato chip from my burger board and grabbing a hefty scoop after mixing up the yolk on top. The meaty puck of unflamed meat is an unctuous bite with kalamata olives and salty capers, it's served with a sturdy, ruler-sized cracker.

Chef Daniel Hyatt forges a stunning meat parcel with the Juliette burger ($16-$17), its stratified layers of sweet tomato jam, perfectly melted aged Cheddar and smoky bacon playing like a power trio on a beef stage. It is otherworldly and easily one of my top five favorite burgers in OC.

Eat & Drink This Now

» GREG NAGEL

JULIETTE KITCHEN + BAR
1000 Bristol St. N., Ste. 11, Newport Beach, (949) 258-9950, www.juliettenb.com



LENKE SZILAGYI / MENEMSHA FILMS

Monster Mash

1945 is a horror masterpiece

BY MATT COKER

The new Hungarian film *1945* has everything going for it that a great monster movie does. It begins with simple villagers going about their lives, preparing for a joyous wedding celebration on a warm summer evening. The train stationmaster recognizes a potential existential threat from the outside that ever-so-slowly inches toward town. When he warns the town clerk, who is the father of the groom, and word spreads to other residents, losing-one's-shit levels rise in direct correlation with the dwindling distance between them and the approaching nightmare.

Ominous sights, sounds, self-destruction among the freaked-out before doom even arrives—all the tropes of classic Universal horror movies are in director Ferenc Török's *1945*. Hell, once the "monsters" reach their destination, they are confronted by villagers toting pitchforks, à la the greeting for Dr. Frankenstein's creation.

However, this picture, which is presented in Hungarian with English subtitles, is categorized not as horror but as drama. They are not two ugly creatures who step off a train outside the unspecified remote village on Aug. 12, 1945, but rather an older gentleman with a gray beard (Iván Angelusz, the film's now-deceased producer) and his son (Marcell Nagy), both of them somber and dressed in black. They have with them two crates that are loaded onto a cart pulled by a horse that is guided by an older man (Miklós B. Székely).

I believe the reason M. Night Shyamalan's *The Sixth Sense* was so effective to this particular watcher was because I knew nothing at all about it when I used its opening-weekend showing as an excuse to get out of the hot Las Vegas sun and into an air-conditioned theater. You, dear reader, should be afforded the same lack of knowledge going into *1945*, so that it will pack the same emotional wallop.

To that end, the only other thing I will disclose about the characters played by Angelusz and Nagy is that their last name is Sámuel. World War II history buffs should also keep in mind the date they walked into the village.

Nothing against the pair's acting, but they almost serve as props. Both barely speak. Yet their mere presence drives a story that, over 91 minutes, slowly simmers to a boil.

When it comes to acting, the star would be Péter Rudolf, who plays the town clerk István Szentes. Despite Hungary's occupation by the Soviets—who are represented in *1945* by three low-level soldiers joyriding in a jeep, always on the lookout for something to plunder—Szentes is the domineering force over his village, drug store and family. Rudolf plays him with touches of levity and boorishness that are never over-the-top and always believable.

Being unfamiliar with Rudolf and the other cast members will actually help American audiences buy into the film. There is a believability to all the performances that leaves viewers feeling as if they are witnessing a true slice of Hungarian village life 73 summers ago.

Other actors who similarly shine, in non-showy, naturalistic ways, are Béla Gados as the slimy village priest, József Szarvas as the remorseful drunkard Bandi, Bence Tasnádi as István's conflicted son Árpád, Dóra Sztarenki as his social-climber bride-to-be, Kisrózsi, and Eszter Nagy-Kálózy, who is also married to Rudolf in real life, as Árpád's drug-addicted mother, Anna.

The production team deserves the most credit for getting so much out of such a simple tale, which is based on the short story *Homecoming* by Gabor T. Szantó, who shares the screenplay credit with Török.

Putting you in that time and place are Elemér Ragályi's luscious black-and-white cinematography and Béla Barsi's crisp editing. I still have stuck in my head the shot of a lantern swinging under the cart on the dusty road to the village. Meanwhile, Dorka Kiss and Sosa Juristovszky nail it when it comes to the period production design and costuming, respectively.

The score from Tibor Szemzö (*The Tree of Life*) harkens back to that era and locale, but when it comes to filling your ears, special recognition must be given to sound designer Tamás Zányi and the foley artist or artists who supplied the *clop-clop-clop* sound to represent the slow gait of the horse pulling the cart to the village, accompanied by the slowly marching Sámuels. Török and his team slyly drop the *clop-clop-clop* into scenes in which villagers could not possibly even hear it yet, just to amplify the tension.

There are films, and I am thinking of two by Steven Spielberg and Quentin Tarantino in particular, that have been universally lauded for dealing with the same dark period for humanity. Yet, by stripping things down and shifting the focus to three months after the war ended in Europe, it is the Török team that has truly created a masterpiece.

MCOKER@OCWEEKLY.COM

1945

was directed by Ferenc Török, written by Gábor T. Szanto and Török, and stars Peter Rudolf, Bence Tasnádi and Dora Sztarenki. Opens Fri. at Edwards Westpark 8, 3735 Alton Pkwy., Irvine, (844) 462-7342. Call for show times; also screens Sat.-Sun. at Art Theatre, 2025 E. Fourth St., Long Beach, (562) 438-5435. Call for show times.

Locked and Loaded

BY MATT COKER

Eighth Grade. An introverted girl tries to survive before she is off to high school. *Regency Directors Cut Cinema at Regency Rancho Niguel, 25471 Rancho Niguel Rd., Laguna Niguel, (949) 831-0446. Thurs., Aug. 2, 11:50 a.m., 2:10, 4:30, 6:55 & 9:10 p.m. $9.50-$12.50; also at Art Theatre, 2025 E. Fourth St., Long Beach, (562) 438-5435. Fri.-Thurs., Aug. 3, 1, 3:15, 6 & 8:15 p.m. $8.50-$11.50.*

The King. Director Eugene Jarecki takes Elvis Presley's 1963 Rolls-Royce on a musical journey. *Art Theatre, (562) 438-5435. Thurs., Aug. 2, noon & 4:30 p.m. $8.50-$11.50.*

Blindspotting. Two childhood friends have very different experiences after an incident in their rapidly gentrifying hometown. *Regency Directors Cut Cinema at Regency Rancho Niguel, (949) 831-0446. Thurs., Aug. 2, 12:10, 2:30, 5, 7:30 & 9:55 p.m. $9.50-$12.50.*

Won't You Be My Neighbor? This documentary takes you to the heart of the late Fred Rogers' career. *Regency Directors Cut Cinema at Regency Rancho Niguel, (949) 831-0446. Thurs., Aug. 2, noon, 4:50 & 9:40 p.m. $9.50-$12.50; also at Regency South Coast Village, 1561 W. Sunflower Ave., Santa Ana, (714) 557-5701. Thurs., Aug. 2, 4:30 p.m. $6-$11.*

Yellow Submarine. The cartoon finds the Fab Four recruited by an escapee to bring joy (and music) back to the land overtaken by the Blue Meanies. *The Frida Cinema, 305 E. Fourth St., Santa Ana; thefridacinema.org. Thurs., Aug. 2, 12:30, 3, 5:30 & 8 p.m. $7-$10; also at Art Theatre, (562) 438-5435. Thurs., Aug. 2, 9:30 p.m. $8.50-$11.50.*

Sorry to Bother You. A telemarketer discovers a magical key to success. *Regency Directors Cut Cinema at Regency Rancho Niguel, (949) 831-0446. Thurs., Aug. 2, 2:20 & 7:10 p.m. $9.50-$12.50; also at Art Theatre, (562) 438-5435. Thurs., Aug. 2, 2:15 & 7 p.m. $8.50-$11.50.*

Blue Velvet. A young man finds a severed ear in a field, sticks his prodigious chin where it does not belong and finds his balls in the grip of a psychopath. *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Thurs., Aug. 2, 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:50 p.m., Fri., 2:30, 5 & 7:30 p.m. $7-$10.*

Beauty and the Beast. The live-action remake of the Disney animated classic. *Camino Real Park, 13602 Parkcenter Lane, Tustin, (714) 573-3326. Thurs., Aug. 2, activities, 5:30 p.m., screening, dusk. Free.*

Rachel Hollis Presents: Made for More. The mother of four the Chic Site founder/CEO and author of the best-seller *Girl, Wash Your Face* aims to use her story to inspire women. *Various theaters; www.fathomevents.com. Thurs., Aug. 2, 7:30 p.m. $15.*

Beach Blanket Bingo. This 1965 musical comedy about deceptions is set against the worlds of skydiving, beach partying and biker ganging. *Crystal Cove State Park, "Beaches" Film & Media Center (historic Cottage No. 13), 8471 N. Coast Hwy., Laguna Beach, (949) 497-7647. Thurs., Aug. 2, 8 p.m. Free.*

Isle of Dogs. All the canine pets of Megasaki City are exiled to a vast garbage dump. Atari sets off to find his bodyguard dog. *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Fri.-Thurs., Aug. 3, 2, 5:30, 8 & 10 p.m. $7-$10.*

Trouble: The Lisa Andersen Story. Chas Smith chronicles the challenges between being a runaway and a four-time world surf champion, icon of the sport and inspiration for the Roxy brand. *Pacific City, 21010 Pacific Coast Hwy., Huntington Beach, www.gopacificcity.com/events/. Fri., 7 p.m. Free.*

Moana. A young princess and navigator search the South Pacific for a fabled island of mysterious secrets. *Grand Park, 6101 City Lights Dr., Aliso Viejo, (949) 243-7750. Fri., 7:30 p.m. Free.*

Cars. Upstart race car Lightning McQueen gets stuck in a dusty desert town, where an old stock car teaches him how to be a winner. *Twila Reid Park, 3100 W. Orange Ave., Anaheim, (714) 609-8070. Fri., 7:45 p.m. Free.*

The Karate Kid. Daniel moves with his mother to Southern California, where he quickly becomes the target of bullies. Mr. Miyagi takes Daniel under his wing. *Irvine Regional Park, 1 Irvine Park Rd., Orange, (714) 973-6835. Fri., dusk. Free; also at Directors Cut Cinema at Regency Rancho Niguel, (949) 831-0446. Tues., 7:30 p.m. $8.*

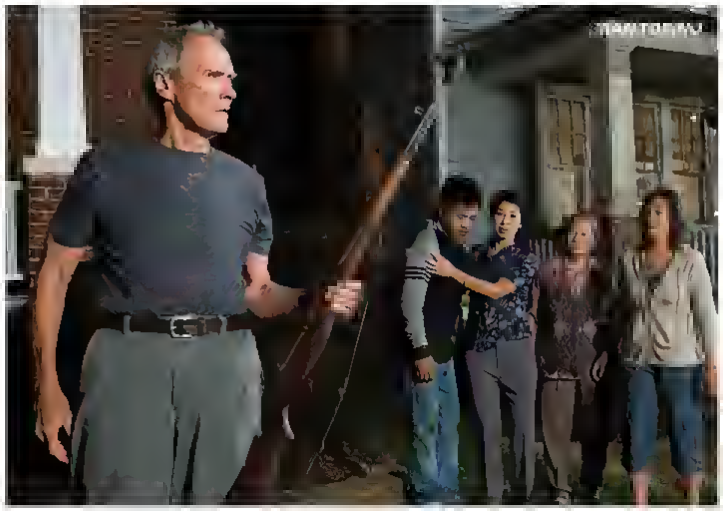
Despicable Me 3. The Minions want back their old crime boss, but Gru considers himself retired. *Placentia Champions Sports Complex, 505 N. Jefferson, Placentia, (714) 993-8232. Fri., 8 p.m. Free.*

Eraserhead. David Lynch's surreal 1977 feature debut about a guy with Cornel Westhair. *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Fri., 11 p.m., Sat., 6 p.m. $7-$10.*

1945. Two strangers arrive at the railway station outside a Hungarian village on a day that was supposed to end with a joyous wedding celebration, but instead is capped by tragedy. *Art Theatre, (562) 438-5435. Sat.-Sun., 11 a.m. $8.50-$11.50.*

The Elephant Man. Bio-drama about a sideshow freak who is rescued by a Victorian surgeon who realizes the heavily disfigured soul is actually a gentleman of great intelligence and sensitivity. *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Sat.-Sun., 11:30 a.m., 2:30 & 5:30 p.m., Mon., 2:30, 5, 7:30 & 9:50 p.m. $7-$10.*

Sailor Moon Supers: The Movies. The beloved Guardian of Love and Justice returns. The feature plays with the short



MATTEN PRODUCTIONS

Ami's First Love. Various theaters; www.fathomevents.com. Sat., 12:55 p.m., Mon., 7 p.m. $12.50.

Back to the Future. Can you believe this flick is more than 30 years old? *Sunnyside Cemetery, 1095 E. Willow St., Long Beach; www.facebook.com/sunnysidecemetery/; www.facebook.com/festivalobscura/. Sat., gates open, 6 p.m., screening, dusk. $13-$14. Parking is extremely limited, so arrive early.*

Repo! The Genetic Opera! The costumed shadow-cast troupe Addicted to the Knife returns to the Frida. *The Frida Cinema; thefridacinema.org. Sat., 11:30 p.m. $7-$10.*

The Rocky Horror Picture Show. Live shadow-cast troupe Midnight Insanity performs. *Art Theatre, (562) 438-5435. Sat., 11:55 p.m. $8.50-$11.50.*

The Big Lebowski. It's a mistaken-identity comedy/mystery. *Various theaters; www.fathomevents.com. Sun. & Wed., 2 & 7 p.m. $12.50.*

Star Trek: The Motion Picture. Commander James T. Kirk and his old *Starship Enterprise* crew reassemble to investigate an immense cloud-like object that appears Earth-bound. *Segerstrom Center for the Arts, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa, (949) 553-2422. Mon., dusk. Free.*

Quiz Show. Robert Redford's 1994 historical drama about the golden age of television's game-show scandals. *Costa Mesa Donald Dungan Library, Community Room, 1855 Park Ave., Costa Mesa, (949) 646-8845. Tues., 4:45 p.m. Free.*

The Incredibles. This National Night Out/Movies in the Park presentation includes games, food trucks and a costume contest. *Fountain Valley Recreation Center, 16400 Brookhurst St., Fountain Valley; www.fountainvalley.org/856/Special-Events. Tues., 6 p.m. Free.*

Jason Mraz: Have It All: The Movie. Martin Montgomery's docu-style feature includes music from Grammy-winning singer/songwriter Jason Mraz's sixth studio album. *Various theaters; www.fathomevents.com. Tues., 7 p.m. $18.*

Grease. Aussie exchange student Sandy and bad-boy gang leader Danny hooked up during summer. Their relationship changes once school starts. *Regency South Coast Village, Santa Ana, (714) 557-5701. Wed., 7:30 p.m. $8.*

Gran Torino. Clint Eastwood tries to reform (and later protect) a Hmong teen neighbor and would-be thief of the old man's prized 1972 Gran Torino. *Fullerton Public Library, Osborne Auditorium, 353 W. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton, (714) 738-6327. Thurs., Aug. 9, 1 p.m. Free.*

Drums: Corps International: Big, Loud and Live 15. See and hear 15 of the top performing corps battling to become the 2018 world champion. *Various theaters; www.fathomevents.com. Thurs., Aug. 9, 3:30 p.m. $18.*

Call Me by Your Name. American student Oliver goes to an Italian villa to serve as the summer intern for a culture professor. But Oliver and the professor's son fall in love. *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Thurs., Aug. 9, 7:30 p.m. $10-$20.*

Coco. With a single strum of the famed guitar of his idol, Miguel is sent to the Land of the Dead, where he will remain unless he finds his way back before the Day of the Dead ends. *Frontier Park, 1400 Mitchell Ave., Tustin, (714) 573-3326. Thurs., Aug. 9, activities, 5:30 p.m., screening, dusk. Free.*

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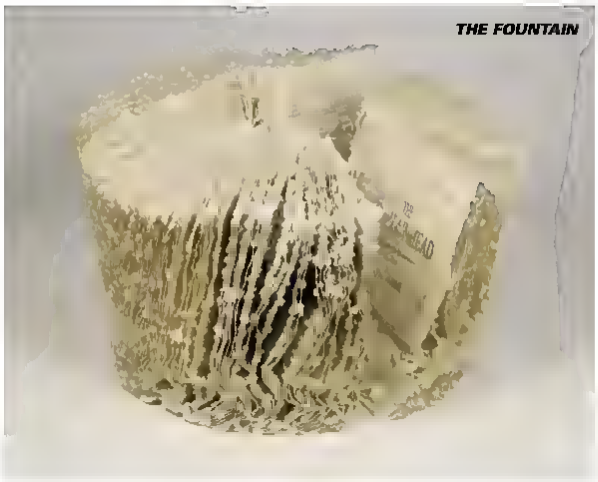
A Good Pair of Scissors

Satiate your midsummer origami cravings at 'PaperWorks Refolded'

BY DAVE BARTON



THE FOUNTAIN

ALEXIS ARNOLD

For a case study in the possibilities of curation, consider a visit to "PaperWorks Refolded" at Brea Gallery. Director and curator Heather Bowling has made stellar choices in her artists, the show's layout is seamless, and her interactive collage and origami pit stops allow people to effectively put what they're seeing into practice. The sequel to a previous Brea Gallery show built around works made of paper, Bowling's exhibition qualifies as some of the very best art I've seen this year.

Margaret Griffith's paper ironwork, hanging in loops from the main gallery's ceiling, resembles spiky, barred gates crashing into one another, tumultuous waves of black and ivory. Alexis Arnold's Borax-dipped novel sculptures are pretty enough to be Martha Stewart decorations, their shiny crystal coatings suggesting words and ideas frozen in time. A bulky copy of Ayn Rand's crapfest *The Fountainhead* an autopsied fossil of mediocre philosophy; Arnold's artier version of Ernest Cline's novel *Ready Player One* doubling down on its pop-culture fetishization.

Nikki Rosato's dissected images use vintage road maps' thoroughfares, roads and highways, whittling away at their land masses, until they create two people gazing into each other's eyes (*Couple. Boston, MA*). It's the kind of art that dazzles the mind, making you wonder how someone could have possibly come up with such a brilliant idea. I'm grateful she did, as her genius metaphors for connection, internal emotional maps and personal travel histories all connected deeply with me.

Aimée Baldwin uses the thin fragility of paper to re-create entirely believable plants and flowers in elegant shadowboxes, her fauna including cruelty-free "vegan taxidermy" paper birds. They're masterpieces of time and tender craftsmanship, with an eye-catching favorite being a peregrine falcon feasting on the bloody tissue of a pigeon that it has downed.

Just as exciting are the flowers and cityscapes of artistic duo JUDITH + ROLFE, with their colorful, swirling floral designs as elegant and shapely as the real thing, their ornate, re-created architecture—balconies, windows and latticework—from *Venice*, *Jalt* and *Notre Dame* instantly recognizable even without their descriptive titles.

Kiel Johnson's deft, intricate sculptures of SLR cameras, a boombox and cassettes, trumpets, and the crowded urban sprawl of a *River Front* resemble toys for adults, ones you'd admire after putting them up on a shelf and away from the kids. Adrienne Heloise's historical images of Napoleon's armies lack the overt homoeroticism of some of her other pictures in the series, but there's still enough naked flesh, water glancing off a chin (*Waterboy*) and men gazing into each other's eyes to offer frisson, while still vague enough that it takes time for meanings to weave into your consciousness.

Less elaborate but just as elegant is Brian Singer's *Geometry #5*, vintage books cut and pressed and covered in acrylic and resin until the result looks like a section of parquet flooring. It's a fine testament to what imagination and vision—as well as a good pair of scissors—can do.

I'm 15 minutes late to the soft opening of painter Tony Pinto's "Artist Seen" at the Art Institute of California—Orange County. Friends and family are rushing about to get his solo show up, the walls already lined with pencil marks and applied magnetacks, 103 photos are splayed out, while seven oil-painted heads, all bubble-wrapped, sit on the floor, waiting for their turn.

Pinto's open call to photograph artists of all kinds, people he knew and people he has now gotten to know, was intended as the first step for source material in creating dimensional painted portraits. Pinto's photography easily captures the personality of the individuals—pensive, focused, self-deprecating or silly—each face different enough that they don't become a series of mug shots.

The artist walks me through, detailing the particular gifts of each subject—graphic novelist, furniture designer, curator, brand manager, painter, etc.—but most are Los Angeles and Long Beach artists that I barely knew or didn't recognize at all, with only a handful of the photos OC-based, including curator Evan Senn and painter Vonn Sumner. The gridded layout, with some of the artists looking straight at the camera and others to the side, gives the wall a communal *Brady Bunch* feel ... if the Bradys had tattoos, dressed in black or had unfortunate facial hair. The painted heads—including local painters David Michael Lee and Jane Bauman—are flat plywood, but they protrude from the wall instead of resting against it, the shadows under and to the side giving each a 3D effect not unlike a hunter's trophy.

Even in its unfinished state, Pinto's is a generous show, warm and inviting, revealing and honoring a much larger community than most of us recognize. Until he plays catch-up with his paintings—with more portraits of Orange County artists, hopefully—this test run for a grander, more fully developed and represented show is a great beginning.

"PAPERWORKS REFOLDED"
at the Brea Gallery, 1 Civic Center Circle, Ste. 1, Brea, (714) 990-7730, www.breagallery.com. Open Wed.-Sun., noon-5 p.m. Through Sept. 14. $3.

"ARTIST SEEN"
at the Art Institute of California—Orange County, 3601 W. Sunflower, Santa Ana, www.facebook.com/events/204737819217875 9. Open Mon.-Thurs., 8 a.m.-noon, Fri., 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Sat., 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Through Oct. 8. Free.

ARTSOVERLOAD

» AIMEE MURILLO

Aug. 3-9

"AGING AS ART": Photographs representing the dignity and beauty of aging. Opens Tues. Open Tues.-Sun., 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Through Aug. 14. Free. Bowers Museum, 2002 N. Main St., Santa Ana, (714) 567-3600, www.bowers.org.

"BRIDGE: PHOTOGRAPHIC MONOPRINTS BY DIANA BLAISURE": Analog and digital art forms are mixed to analyze the literal and figurative functions of bridges. Open Mon.-Thurs., 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Fri.-Sat., 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun., noon-5 p.m. Through Sept. 7. Free. Newport Beach Central Library, 1000 Avocado Ave., Newport Beach, (949) 717-3800, www.newportbeachlibrary.org.

BROADWAY IN THE PARK: *THE LITTLE MERMAID*: In cooperation with the Chance Theater, Tustin Area Council for Fine Arts presents the musical version of Disney's animated tale. Tues., Aug. 11, 8 p.m. $20-$30. Peppertree Park, 230 W. First St., Tustin, (949) 677-3709, www.tacfa.org.

LCAD STUDENT EXHIBITION AND SALE. Student- and alumni-made artworks in almost every medium are available, with proceeds going directly to the artists. Open daily, 1-8 p.m. Through Aug. 15. LCAD Gallery, 805, 805 Laguna Canyon Rd., Laguna Beach, (949) 376-6000, www.lcad.edu.

"MIKE STILKEY—EXISTENTIAL WONDERINGS": The painter ponders our perceived reality vs. the absurd, with works inspired by the existentialist texts of Jean-Paul Sartre and Albert Camus. Opening reception: Sun., 5-7 p.m. Open Mon.-Sat., 11 a.m.-8 p.m., Sun., 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Through Aug. 22. Free. 1888 Center, 115 N. Orange St., Orange, (657) 282-0483, 1888center.

SAVOIR FAIRE VINTAGE MARKET: The monthly vintage-, retro- and reclaimed-object flea market returns to the Cal State Fullerton campus. Sun., 7 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. Cal State Fullerton, Parking Lot E, 2550 Nutwood Ave., Fullerton. www.savoirfairevintagemarket.com.

TADLI WORLD DANCE COMPETITION: Dance groups from the United States and China compete, with winners invited to join the national and world tours. Thurs., Wed. 7 p.m. Claire Trevor Theatre, 4000 Mesa Rd., Irvine. (949) 854-4646, www.thebarclay.org.

"THAUMATURGY": A sensory multimedia installation by Drue Fleswell, with live music provided by Kafka Cafe Orchestra. Fri., 8 p.m. Free. Hibbleton Gallery, 223 W. Santa Fe Ave., Fullerton. hibbleton.com.

"WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP: HOW TO CHANGE YOUR MIND IN WATERCOLOR WITH ELAIN HARVEY": Participants learn a more relaxed approach, with paintings you go techniques for creative spontaneity. Sat., 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. $95 (supplies not included). City of Brea Art Gallery, 1 Civic Center Circle, Brea, (714) 990-7751, www.breagallery.com.

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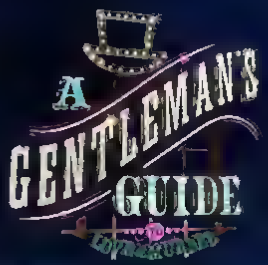

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From the Surf to the City

Beach Goth's LA shift led to its salvation

BY WYOMING REYNOLDS

MASON POOLE

Last year, the Growlers front man Brooks Nielsen wasn't in a very good place. It was easy to hear the cynicism, anger and distress in his voice as he discussed Growlers Six, the event that replaced Beach Goth, which he and his band mates curated in conjunction with the Observatory and Noise Group over the previous five years. In that time, the event grew from the king of local festivals to one that attracted global artists and attention with its weirdness, eclectic lineups, art displays, an array of drag queens and much more.

As successful as those festivals were in furthering the Growlers as a local brand and as festival tastemakers, there was constant griping over the things that make a festival work: lackluster security, poor parking, a less-than-stellar VIP area. And with a massive overflowing of people, what should have been a must-attend event turned into a bona-fide shit show.

The 2016 Beach Goth should have been a crowning achievement for the Observatory and the Growlers. Bon Iver, Justice, RL Grime, King Krule, Gucci Mane, Violent Femmes and TLC performed in addition to the organizers. However, between all of the organizational problems and finger pointing, friends suddenly became bitter enemies, and Jeffrey Shuman and Noise Group sued the Growlers over the rights to the Beach Goth name shortly after.

The suit, filed in Santa Ana Federal Court in November 2016 by Noise Group, claimed the Growlers, namely Nielsen and band mate Matt Taylor, infringed on the company's trademarks, using the Beach Goth name to financially benefit the band, and sought an unspecified amount in compensation.

"I didn't know how this shit worked," Nielsen says of the suit. "I've always known that the industry is cutthroat and there's a lot of snakes. At the same time, we started this band to throw parties and to have fun, it's the spirit we've always had. The people we worked with we're friends with. I really thought we had a friend, and it really bit us in the ass. It was depressing and scary to get sued and have to fight back against someone with millions of dollars behind them—and we're just a little old band."

According to Nielsen, trouble had been brewing prior to the lawsuit, adding that "things started going sour" as far back as three years ago. He says he brought fans' gripes about the setup and accommodations to Noise Group, including what happened with the money and why things were happening the way they were. The band got the heat because their name was featured prominently on the bill. While he had pressed for a formal written contract between the band and the promoter, he says, Nielsen never received one.

"I should have smelled that there was something fishy going on," he recalls. "But we were also preoccupied with other things in our lives—our studio burned down, issues with band members, friends doing drugs—so we overlooked the snake in the grass, and we kept being told that we'd never be treated this way, and things would be fixed, and that we were in this together. [Shuman] was such a great talent buyer that I overlooked everything else, and [that's] why we're in this position."

Ultimately, the lawsuit sapped everything the band were doing. They were worried about staring down bankruptcy via a corporate entity taking them on. (Shuman and Noise Group didn't respond to the *Weekly*'s request for comment.)

Amid the litigation, the Growlers went forward with the festival, renamed Growlers Six, in San Pedro. The hill was topped by Dan Auerbach of the Black Keys, Yeah Yeahs Yeahs and B-52s. Though things went all right, Nielsen blames the semi-lackluster experience on confusion over the name and the location, which neither pulled enough fans from Orange County nor attracted droves of LA folks.

Once things settled earlier this year, the band got to work putting together 2018's Beach Goth. Taking place at Los Angeles State Historic Park, the event is now being promoted by Live Nation. "We're just starting over again and want to make some money," Nielsen says. "We had the balls to stand up for ourselves, and we pulled through. It was a few years of our life that sucked and didn't really make sense. Now that we have it back, I realized how much I missed it."

The scaled-down lineup includes the Voidz, GWAR and Doug E. Fresh, plus a special set of Ramones covers by Beach Goth vets Bleached. "The Ramones are one of the best bands ever," says Bleached singer Jennifer Clavin, who adds that she's happy the Growlers got the fest's name back. "We'd been doing this as the Misfits before, but I don't know who came up with the idea—either the Growlers or our manager—but it seems great to do here."

The change of venue is the third in as many years, but it makes sense now that the band have relocated to LA from Orange County/Long Beach. "It's easy; it's central," Nielsen says. "Take an Uber; come get wasted! . . . This is going to be a really raw, fun homemade festival, and the bands are great for what we can get. I'm pumped."

The Growlers intend to take a version of Beach Goth on tour, and they're putting out their first full-length since the ordeal began, tentatively titled *Casual Acquaintances*. Including 60 to 70 demos from over the years, it'll be released via the Growlers' own Beach Goth Records.

If nothing else, Nielsen says, being sued made the band a bit more careful about paying closer attention to paperwork and protecting themselves.

"We're definitely a little wiser not to get into these situations anymore," he says. "I don't wish harm upon my enemies, but at the same time, I definitely feel like time will take care of things and people will get what they deserve. In the beginning, I was very afraid of a lawsuit; I was afraid that it would be mafia-style and someone would be after us. But I really don't give a fuck anymore."

BEACH GOTH

featuring the Growlers, the Voidz, the Drums, Doug E. Fresh, GWAR and more, at Los Angeles State Historic Park, 1245 N. Spring St., Los Angeles; www.frontgatetickets.com/festivals/the-growlers-beach-goth/. Sun., 12:30 p.m. $66. All ages.

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COURTESY OF VOICES OF RUIN

Metal *Repräsentieren*

How Voices of Ruin were picked to bring OC metal to Germany

BY ALEX DISTEFANO

Among the plethora of local thrash, death and black-metal bands in the OC/Long Beach music scene, one that currently stands out is Anaheim's Voices of Ruin. Without the financial backing of a record label, the Anaheim-based band—brothers Dave (vocals) and Tom (lead guitar) Barrett, Lonnie Vanhorn (drums), Steve Calton (guitar), and Wallare Myers (bass)—have amassed a following, having played hundreds of local and regional shows and touring the country with everyone from Vader to Disgorge. Their sound is best described as a skillful blend of extreme metal fusing together European death metal and symphonic black metal, with a raw burst of American thrash energy.

"We're into symphonic black metal and melodic Scandinavian death metal, and we incorporate that as much as we can," Dave Barrett says. "But still, we keep it natural to ourselves first. It's not about ripping anyone off; it's just the music that comes to us."

After more than a decade of hard work, including a successful European tour with East Coast death metal band Internal Bleeding, Voices of Ruin won the National Round of the Wacken Metal Battle, earning them the opportunity to play this weekend for tens of thousands at the annual Wacken Open Air Heavy Metal Fest in Germany. The international three-day heavy-metal party features headliners Danzig, Judas Priest, Vince Neil, Behemoth and Cannibal Corpse.

"To play in front of the European crowds . . . was just amazing, and we stood out," Barrett says. "We had a great time, and the shows had great crowds overall."

Despite the international accolades, Barrett says he's proud and honored to be from Orange County. "We have a lot of friends in the OC metal scene—bands like Madrost and Empyrean Throne—who are growing and doing well in their own right," he says. "This community of bands we have, it's small, but the scene is tight."

In furthering the scene, Voices of Ruin, along with Jason Tyler from ADHD Entertainment, have put together the now-annual local metal showcase Ruinfest. "The first time we did it three or four years ago was at the Tiki Bar in Costa Mesa," Barrett says, "but now it's held at Malone's in Santa Ana."

The lineup for the December event is being finalized, and Barrett says the band is looking forward to more. "We will announce a new fall tour before the end of the year," he says. "Other than that, we plan to be in the studio making a new record."

In the meantime, Voices of Ruin are ready to bring another taste of West Coast metal to Europe. "For us to play in Germany and branch out to an international audience at a fest like Wacken is a dream come true," Barrett says, "and we are thankful and honored to represent the Southern California/OC metal scene."

LETTERS@OCWEEKLY.COM

ANTHONY KIMATA

Friday

JONATHAN RICHMAN 9 p.m., $15, 21+. Marty's On Newport, 14401 Newport Ave., Tustin, (714) 544-1995, www.martysonnewport.com

LEILANI WOLFGRAMM 6 p.m., $15, all ages. Gerdon Amp, 12782 Main St., Garden Grove, (949) 415-8544, gardenamp.com.

LIL SKIES 8 p.m., $35, all ages. The Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana, (714) 957-0600, www.observatorync.com

NE-YO 7 p.m., $50, all ages. House of Blues at Anaheim GardenWalk, 400 W. Disney Way, Anaheim, (714) 778-2583, www.houseofblues.com/anaheim.

TED Z AND THE WRANGLERS, L.A. EDWARDS; BOLO BRAVO 8 p.m., $5, 21+. The Wayfarer, 843 W. 19th St., Costa Mesa, (949) 764-0039, www.wayfarerom.com.

UB40, ALI, ASTRO & MICKEY, FREDDIE MCGREGOR 7:30 p.m., $28-$70, all ages. Pacific Amphitheatre at the OC Fairgrounds, 100 Fair Dr., Costa Mesa, (714) 708-1500, www.pacamp.com.

Saturday

THE AGGROLITES 6 p.m., $10-$15, all ages. Gerdon Amp, 12782 Main St., Garden Grove, (949) 415-8544, gardenamp.com

AMERICAN FOOTBALL; PHOEBE BRIDGERS 8 p.m., $25, all ages. The Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana, (714) 957-0600, www.observatorync.com

THE CURED 8 p.m., $12, all ages. House of Blues at Anaheim GardenWalk, 400 W. Disney Way, Anaheim, (714) 778-2583, www.houseofblues.com/anaheim.

THE FAB FOUR: 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF *YELLOW SUBMARINE* 8 p.m., $15-$35, all ages. Pacific Amphitheatre at the OC Fairgrounds, 100 Fair Dr., Costa Mesa, (714) 708-1500, www.pacamp.com.

JONATHAN RICHMAN 9 p.m., $15, 21+. Marty's On Newport, 14401 Newport Ave., Tustin, (714) 544-1995, www.martysonnewport.com

SPONGE 7 p.m., $15, 21+. The Slidebar Rock-N-Roll Kitchen, 122 E. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton, (714) 871-7468, www.slidebarfullerton.com

STRUNG OUT, THE GRARRERS, HOIST THE COLORS 8 p.m., $20-$25, 21+. Alex's Bar, 2913 E. Anaheim St., Long Beach, (562) 434-8292, www.alexsbar.com.

TUNNELS; LUCIO LYNX, SCOTTYODER; GREEN SAHARA 8 p.m., $5, 21+. The Wayfarer, 843 W. 19th St., Costa Mesa, (949) 764-0039, www.wayfarerom.com.

Sunday

BAD TIMES FEST, FEATURING SPENOTIME PALACE, THE RASH DOGS, THE JACKS, CREATURES CHOIR, THE SWEAT 8 p.m., $16, all ages. The Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana, (714) 957-0600, www.observatorync.com.

JORDAN T. 8 p.m., $15, all ages. House of Blues at Anaheim GardenWalk, 400 W. Disney Way, Anaheim, (714) 778-2583, www.houseofblues.com/anaheim.

KARAH JNS; MARIA JOSE 7 p.m., $22-$62, all ages. Pacific Amphitheatre at the OC Fairgrounds, 100 Fair Dr., Costa Mesa, (714) 708-1500, www.pacamp.com.

SUPERSUCKERS, HENCHMEN 8 p.m., $15-$20, 21+. Alex's Bar, 2913 E. Anaheim St., Long Beach, (562) 434-8292, www.alexsbar.com

TIJUANA PANTHERS 8 p.m., $15, 21+. Marty's On Newport, 14401 Newport Ave., Tustin, (714) 544-1995, www.martysonnewport.com.

Monday

YELLOWMAN 9 p.m., $10, 21+. Marty's On Newport, 14401 Newport Ave., Tustin, (714) 544-1995, www.martysonnewport.com.

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KRS-ONE 9 p.m., $20, 21+. Marty's On Newport, 14401 Newport Ave., Tustin, (714) 544-1995, www.martysonnewport.com

Wednesday

TOTO; ASIA FEATURING JOHN PAYNE 7:30 p.m., $26-$58, all ages. Pacific Amphitheatre at the OC Fairgrounds, 100 Fair Dr., Costa Mesa, (714) 708-1500, www.pacamp.com

UNDER THE COVERS OF DARKNESS 8 p.m., free, 21+. Marty's On Newport, 14401 Newport Ave., Tustin, (714) 544-1995, www.martysonnewport.com.

WILD CHILD; SWEET NOBODY 8 p.m., $15, 21+. The Wayfarer, 843 W. 19th St., Costa Mesa, (949) 764-0039, www.wayfarerom.com.

Thursday, Aug. 9

JAMESON RURT, OEAO POET SOCIETY 8 p.m., $5, 21+. The Wayfarer, 843 W. 19th St., Costa Mesa, (949) 764-0039, www.wayfarerom.com.

MOONSVILLE COLLECTIVE, JJ SMITH AND THE HELM 9 p.m., $10, 21+. Marty's On Newport, 14401 Newport Ave., Tustin, (714) 544-1995, www.martysonnewport.com

WALE 8 p.m., $25, all ages. The Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana, (714) 957-0600, www.observatorync.com

ZAC CLARR (OF ANDREW MCMAHON IN THE WILDERNESS); ROR OXRLOOD 7 p.m., $13, all ages. House of Blues at Anaheim GardenWalk, 400 W. Disney Way, Anaheim, (714) 778-2583, www.houseofblues.com/anaheim.

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Differences

I'm gay and have been dating a gay bo 10 months. Ha s great overall and I would say he the most part we both want it to work out. But I are having a problem with his friends and other lifestyle choices. All of his friends we straight, and almost all of them we women. All of my friends have always been gay men, like me so I find this strange. I don't have any problem with women, but I don't hang out with any women, and neither do most of my friends. He makes dinner plans for us with his straight friends almost every week, and I grin and bear it. They're always old co-workers, so the whole conversation is them talking about old times or straighty talk about their children. It's incredibly boring. He's met my friends, and he likes some of them but dislikes others. It's obvious that he is not comfortable relating to gay men, generally speaking. He does not seem knowledgeable about gay history or culture. For example, he strongly dislikes drag queens and never goes to gay bars. There is one woman in particular he makes dinner he every Friday night. It's a standing date that he's only occasionally have flexible about changing to accommodate plans for the two of us. Now he's planning a weeklong vacation with her. When he first mentioned this trip, he asked if I would want to spend a week camping. I said no because I don't like camping. He immediately went forward with planning it with her. I'm pretty sure the two of them had already hatched this plan, and I don't think he ever really wanted me to go. I think it's WEIRD to want to go camping he an entire week with some old lady. He does other weird things, too, like belonging to a strange new-age church, which is definitely at odds with my strongly held anti-religious views. He has asked me to attend; I went once, and it made me EXTREMELY uncomfortable. The fact that I didn't like it just turned into a seemingly unsolvable problem between us. He says I'm not being "supportive." I need some advice on how to get past my intense feelings of aversion to the weirdness. How can I not let our differences completely destroy the relationship?

Hopelessly Odd Man Out

Differences don't have to destroy a relationship. Differences can actually enhance and help sustain a relationship. But for differences to have that effect, HOMO both partners have to appreciate each other for their differences. You don't sound appreciative—you sound contemptuous. And that's a problem.

According to Dr. John Gottman of the Gottman Institute (a research institution dedicated to studying and strengthening marriages and other interpersonal relationships)—who says he can accurately predict divorce in 90 percent of cases—contempt is the leading predictor of divorce. "When contempt begins to overwhelm your relationship, you tend to forget entirely your partner's positive qualities," he writes in *Why Marriages Succeed or Fail*. Contempt, Gottman argues, destroys whatever bonds hold a couple together.

You've been together only 10 months HOMO, and you're not married, but it sounds like contempt has already overwhelmed your relationship. It's not just that you dislike his friends, but you're contemptuous of them; it's not just that you don't share his spiritual beliefs, but you're contemptuous of them; it's not just that his gayness is expressed in a different-than-yours-but-still-perfectly-valid way but you're contemptuous of him as a gay man. Because he doesn't watch *Drag Race* or hang out in gay bars. Because he has a lot of female friends. Because he's happy to sit and talk with his friends about their kids. (There is nothing "straighty" about kid conversations. Gay parents take part in those conversations, too. And while we're in this parenthesis: I can't understand why anyone would waste their time actively disliking drag queens. But being a gay male correlates more strongly with liking dick than it does with liking drag.)

This relationship might work if you were capable of appreciating the areas where you two overlap—your shared interests (including your shared interest in each other)—and if you were content to let him go off and enjoy his friends, his new-age church, and his standing Friday-night dinner date. A growing body of research shows that divergent interests + some time away from each other + mutual respect = long-term relationship success. You're missing the "mutual respect" part—and where this formula is concerned, HOMO, two out of three ain't enough.

Here's how it might look if you could appreciate your differences: You'd do the things you enjoy doing together—like, say, each other—but on Friday nights, he makes dinner for his bestie while you hit the gay bars with your gay friends and catch a drag show. You would go on vacations together, but once in a while, he'd go on vacation with one of his "straighty" friends, and once in a while, you'd go on vacation with your gay friends. On Sundays, he'd go to woo-woo church while you'd sleep in or binge-watch *Pose*. You'd be happy to let him be him, and he'd be happy to let you be you—and together, the two of you would add up to an interesting, harmonious, compelling "we."

But I honestly don't think you have it in you.

P.S. I have lots of straight friends, and I'm a parent, and sometimes I talk with other parents about our children, and I rarely go to gay bars, and I haven't gotten around to watching *Pose* yet—or the most recent season of *Drag Race*, for that matter. It's devastating to learn, after all these years and all those dicks, that I'm terrible at being gay.

P.P.S. If a straight person told you, "I don't have any problem with gay men, but I don't hang out with any gay men, and neither do most of my friends," you'd think they had a problem with gay men, right?

I've been in an on-again, off-again relationship for the past four years. My girlfriend has an assortment of mental-health issues—anxiety, depersonalization episodes, depression, paranoia, among others—that make it very stressful and tiring to be with her. Despite my best attempts at getting her to seek help, she refuses to take the plunge. Whether it's a result of her illness or not, she refuses to believe that I actually want to be with her. I do care deeply about her, and the good days we wonderful. But nearly every time we go on a date or have sex, it ends in tears, and I have to endlessly reassure her that I do really want to be with her. I'm exhausted by having to defend my feelings to her multiple times per week, and I don't know what to do.

He's Exhausted And Lost

There's only one thing you can do. HEAL. Put this relationship on hold—take it back to off-again status—and make getting back together contingent upon her seeking help for her mental-health issues. You've made it clear, again and again, that you want to be with her. By finally seeking help—by actually taking the plunge—she can make it clear that she wants to be with you.

I have a very sexy German boyfriend, and he is not circumcised. His otherwise-beautiful dick is a problem. It smells—sometimes a little, and sometimes it really stinks. After he showers, the smell is still there. He says he uses only water. Is there a better way to wash an uncircumcised penis? Can he use some kind of soap?

Girl Asks Gay: Grooming Intervention Near Genitals

Yes, GAGGING, there is a better way. He needs to wash that thing with motherfucking SOAP. If the soap he has is irritating the head of his penis or the inside of his foreskin, he needs to try other soaps until he finds one that cleans his dick without causing irritation. And you should make allowing that otherwise-beautiful German dick anywhere near you contingent upon him learning how to clean it properly. There's no excuse for stank-ass dick.

On the Lovecast *(savagelovecast.com), a biblical recipe for abortion. Contact Dan via mail@savagelove.net, follow him on Twitter @fakedansavage, and visit ITMFA.org*

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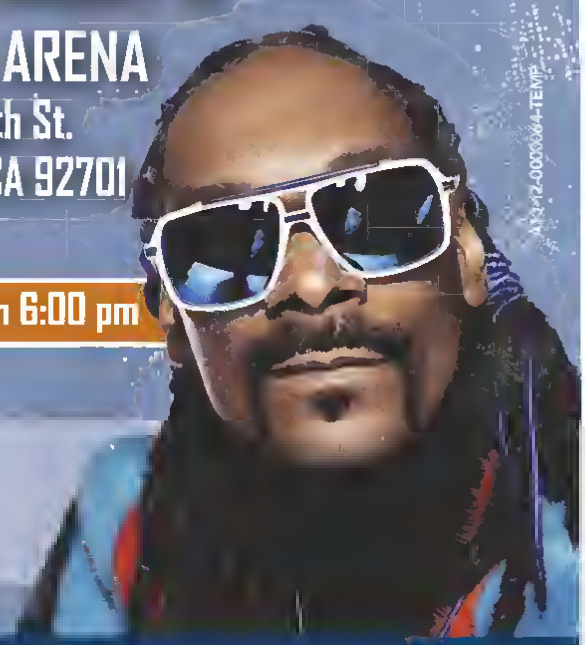

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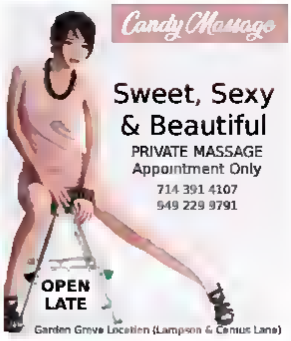
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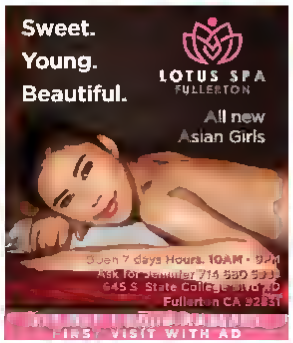
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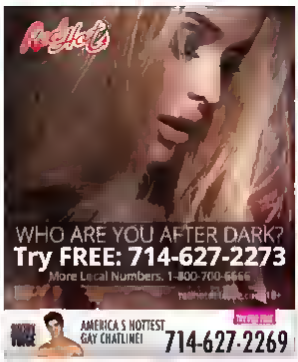
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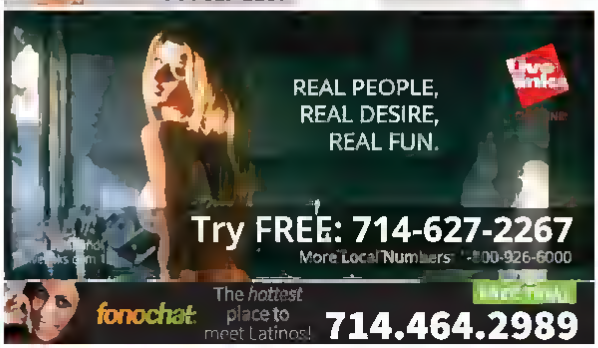
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Software Development Engineer (Anaheim, CA) Dvlp info technology project estimates. Perform unit testing & debugging. Perform database tuning, troubleshooting & optimizing. Apply knowl of NodeJS, ReactJS, ReduxJS, Perl, social media prgmg APIs: Google, Facebook, Yelp, Asquare, Bing. Utilize tools such as Postgres, Data Mgmt Tools, Google Big Query, Prgmg Tools, Docker. Reqmts are: Bachelor's Deg in Comp Sci, Info Technology or closely related comp sci or info technology field plus 60 mos of exp in job offd, or as Software Engineer, Technical Manager, Manager IT or Data Projects) or closely related. Mail resume to: Where 2 Get It, Inc. (dba: Brandify), Attn: Ms. Morrison, People Officer, 222 South Harbor Blvd., Ste 600, Anaheim, CA 92805.

Market Research Analysts. Collect & analyze market data to predict & assess company's position in solar panel bus. Req'd: BA/BS in Econ., Int'l Bus., or Bus. Admin. Mail resume: Wegen Solar, Inc. 1511 E. Orangethorpe Ave. #D, Fullerton, CA 92831.

Sales Engineer: provide technical support to sales team. 40hrs/wk. Send resume to Neotec USA Inc. Attn: HR, 20280 S. Vermont Ave, Ste 200, Torrance, CA 90502.

Educational Counselor wanted. Provide education counseling to students. Resume: AOI College of Languages, Inc., 4040 Barranca Pkwy #290, Irvine, CA 92604.

Transpacific Financial, Inc. seeks Market Research Analyst. Bachelor's in marketing or related field. Gather & collect data re. sales & market trends. Work site: Irvine, CA. Mail resume to: 185 W. Chestnut Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016.

Acupuncturist. E/T. Treat patients with acupuncture therapy. MS in Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine req'd. Resume: Steve Kim Chiropractic, Inc., 14210 Culver Dr. #E, Irvine, CA 92604.

Pastor In Irvine, CA. Please send resume to The Neighborhood Baptist Church of Orange County, 930 Roosevelt, Ste 216, Irvine, CA 92620.

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A Midsummer's Nice Dreamsicle

A few thoughts on how to spend your summer non-vacation

BY JIM WASHBURN

AARON BLUMENSHINE

It's August, and even the squirrels and coyotes are catching on that summer won't last forever. The "Back to School Sale" signs are going up (it was always creepy and dissonant to see "Back to School Sale" right below the "Grant's for Guns" sign on that now-shuttered Costa Mesa sporting-goods store). Next, there'll be the pop-up Halloween shops, the turkey platters, the gift wrapping, the New Year's horns, the egg-dying and—*whammo!*—here comes next summer to waste. Don't let this one get away from you!

Here are some things you can do in the dimming days of this one

PROTEST!

It's been half a century since Mick and Keith penned "Summer's here, and the time is right for fighting in the street." The human race, you've perhaps noticed, has not spent those intervening years creating an egalitarian hippie utopia. Instead, there is more cause to kvetch than ever, what with *Il Douche* in the White House seizing babies, assaulting the free press, sucking Putin dick and trashing regulations on greenhouse-gas emissions while the world burns.

There are horrific, deadly, uncontained fires going on from the Arctic Circle to California, and Mr. Defend and Protect hasn't said word one about them, obsessed instead with collusion, a border wall and a space force. You know, to protect us from Montenegro's space force while we burn.

OC has seen some historic protests this year—for women, against gun violence—and smaller ones are taking place all the time. I know people who are still protesting our 2003 invasion of Iraq. Check social media for events that resonate with your beliefs, then get your feet in the fight. What good does it do? It'll help like-minded folks feel less alone. It'll help *you* feel less alone. It's aerobic. And it helps to keep activism rolling into the midterm elections, so we might finally return some checks and balances to our political system. You can help Dana Rohrabacher earn a nice, long retirement on the public dole. And—who knows?—maybe you'll get laid.

GET SOME MUSIC IN YOUR LIFE!

Has anyone been to the newish Marty's On Newport in Tustin? We're going this weekend to see Jonathan Richman, which should be a great fit, as I hear Marty's isn't much on air conditioning and Jonathan insists venues turn the air conditioning off when he plays anyway. It'll be a sweaty kismet. Some people think Jonathan invented punk rock, but he thinks otherwise. I think he has more heart than anyone else in rock, and he lets it show.

Marty's is booking a variety of stuff, from venerable LA punk bands to sizzling Latin acts to reggae to the Eagles of Death Metal. All aboard!

Both of the bookers from the lamentably closed Don the Beachcomber, Christopher Burkhardt and Ed Boswell, are separately and together putting on shows at various OC venues. Among the notables are country's Jim Lauderdale at Original Mike's and the return of Big Sandy and His Fly-Rite Boys—their first gig since guitar monarch Ashley Kingman's heart surgery—at the new Cavern at La Santa, both in downtown Santa Ana. You'll find plenty more online at Boswell's Musical Thrills and Stellar Shows and Concerts (*www.stellarshows.net*). And—who knows?—maybe you'll get laid.

GET A NEW SUMMER SOUNDTRACK!

Everyone needs a summer song or album, and it's good to update them so you're not still listening to *Sgt. Pepper* at the beach 51 years after the fact. You will, of course, want your own theme, but you're welcome to borrow mine, which is "Dum Maaro Dum" by the Bay Area's Aki Kumar, from his just-released *Hindi Man Blues*. I'm still nuts about his last album, *Aki Goes to Bollywood*, on which the Mumbai-born singer/harp player formed a bridge between Indian soundtrack music and American blues ravishingly well. If "Dum Maaro Dum" is any indication, the new album leaps off that bridge into the unknown, and I love the heck out of it. You should be able to stream it at www.akigoestobollywood.com.

LESLIE SMITH

SHELLY SCHULLER

START A BAND!

Back in the 1980s, my friend and oftentimes band mate Mark Soden was running a high-school media lab in Huntington Beach. One day, some of the students were mooning about how great it would be to be in a band, so he told them, "Okay, you're in a band." He gave them rudimentary lessons in music and attitude—one guy played an ice ax, another an early Texas Instruments computer—named them Youth Hostel, and within six weeks had them onstage at LA's Anti-Club.

If they could do it, if Maroon 5 could do it, why not you? Decent musical gear has never been cheaper, particularly if you buy it used from meth-heads. Learn a few chords, bellow a few words, and you're in the game.

The hardest part is choosing a band name. So, here, you're welcome to some of the ones I'm not using: Hippie Flapjack Removal Service, the Preconditions, Drug Pouch, Jimmy Regurgitate World, Iron Mullet, Spelt Tarantula, the New Sweaty Minstrels, the Cutlets, Mega Poodle, Choking Hazard, the Earthen Berms or Smeg Newton. You can thank me when you get a Grammy.

Playing music with simpatico people is one of the great joys in life. And—who knows?—maybe you'll get laid.

GET A TATTOO!

Given a tattoo's semi-permanence, you don't want some fly-by-night whim of a tat. I recommend you get one that will remain valid, no matter what else changes in your life—such as a tramp stamp above your ass that reads, "YOUR NAME HERE."

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